





Your Tunbridge Wells

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No 178

All staff at college to be offered voluntary exit route

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

ALL staff at K College have been offered the option of taking a voluntary redundancy package as the management look to cut costs in a bid to balance its books.

Last month, the college confirmed it lost £16m over the last financial year prompting it to have to draw up a major financial rescue plan.

The college, which has a site at North Farm, in addition to headquarters in Tonbridge, also confirmed the number of compulsory job losses was to rise - lifting from 145 to "no more than 168".

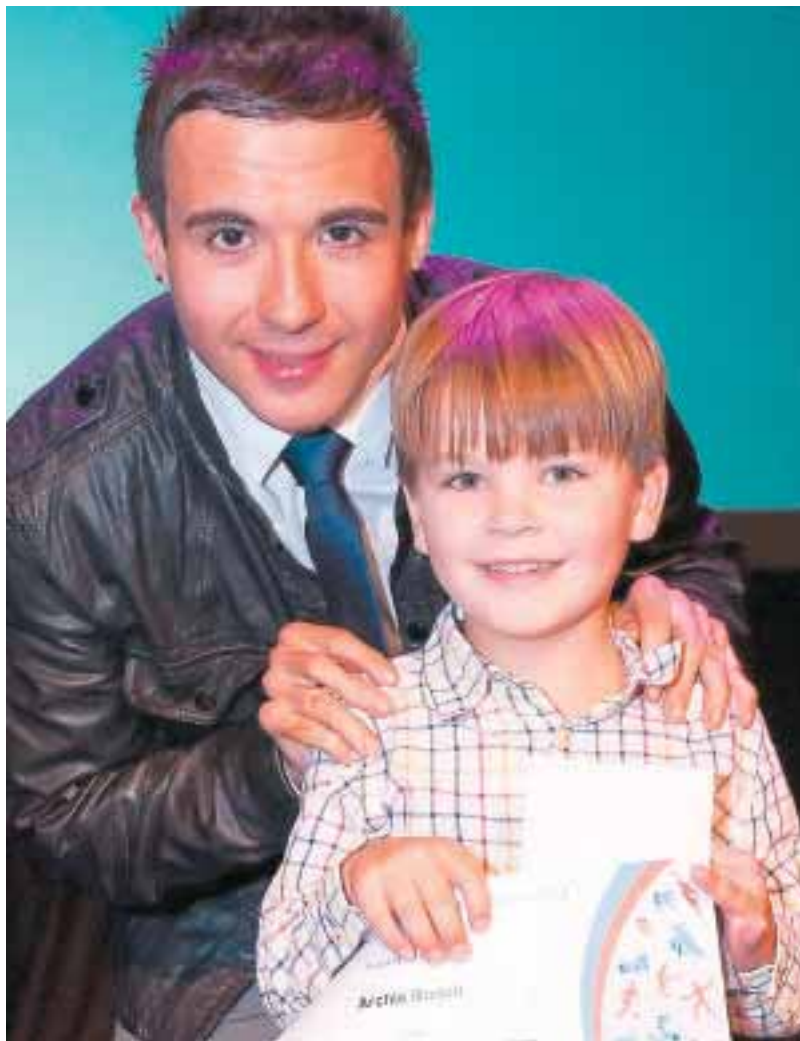
That figure is in addition to those accepting offers to leave

voluntarily.

One of the reasons for the college's slide into a financial quagmire was due to costs involved in the plans to open a technology centre at the Tonbridge campus, which would have absorbed that currently in place at North Farm. That, however, was shelved.

A statement from the college said: "Intensive work has taken place on the college's finances to establish the underlying position over the two years since the merger of West and South Kent colleges.

"Following on-going consultation with staff and unions the board of governors have agreed to extending the consultation period regarding potential redundancies."



CHAMPIONS: Young Archie Bunch with Paralympian Will Bayley – Full story, see below

AWARDS

Family affair as sport passport scheme reaches conclusion

PARALYMPIC silver medal winner Will Bayley presented the winners of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's Sport & Culture Passport at a special ceremony at the Assembly Hall.

The scheme was launched in January as part of the council's 2012 Year of Celebrations. The passport gave residents of the borough the opportunity to try out 21 sporting and 21 cultural ac-

tivities, free of charge.

It also doubled up as a competition, with people trying to attend as many activities as possible.

Overall champion was Luke Forte, 7. His mother, Anne Forte, took the award for cultural champion and his sister Rebecca, 9, won young persons' cultural champion.

Young persons' sporting champion

was Benenden's Archie Bunch, 7, (pictured above). He described taking part as "like a mini Olympics".

Natalie Coode, the council's 2012 and sports lead officer, said: "Throughout the project we received very positive feedback.

"Tunbridge Wells Fencing Club started a new class as there was so much interest generated through the passport.

Some people attended all 21 cultural activities, which was an amazing achievement."

Activities on offer included sailing, canoeing, crafts, dance, literature, music, curling and athletics.

There were prizes for all of those picking up awards, donated by the likes of Asda, the Assembly Hall and the Trinity Theatre.

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FIRE

North Farm blaze drama

MORE than 30 firefighters tackled a blaze at industrial units on North Farm on Monday morning.

Emergency crews were summoned to North Farm Road at around 1.45am after a fire broke out in a two-storey building. A probe into the cause is under way.

RETAIL

Pret in £100k shop rent deal

SANDWICH giants Pret a Manger has signed a 15-year deal for its new site in the town centre - and will be paying £100,000 rent a year.

The store will be opposite the entrance to Royal Victoria Place. A confirmed date for the store's opening has not yet been released.

EVENTS

Your online firework guide

PLANNING to attend a firework event but not sure which one? Then check out our regularly updated online list of the county's top events. To find out where, when, how much and what time the first rocket is launched, see the 'leisure' section at www.kentnews.co.uk.

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HALLOWEEN

Blood will fall from the skies as haunted night draws near

By Marijke Cox

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TERRIFYING weather is predicted for this weekend with 'blood rain' falling from the skies in the run-up to Halloween.

But don't fear, this spooky weather is in fact a natural phenomenon caused by red dust whipped up by winds in the Sahara desert which then mixes with moisture in the clouds.

Coinciding with the run up to October 31, the freak weather could make this the spookiest Halloween yet.

According to Medway author Neil Arnold, who has written a series of books about ghostly goings on in Kent, there is a lot of paranormal activity in the area.

"Pluckley, near Ashford, is often considered Britain's most haunted village despite the fact a majority of the classic ghostly tales were made up around the 1940s," he said.

"Rochester is probably Kent's most haunted location. This former city has at least 40 ghosts in its High Street.

"Blue Bell Hill near Maidstone is possibly Kent's weirdest location.

"This old hill is known for its ghostly hitchhiker – a phantasmal woman in white who many believe is the victim of a car crash which took place in November, 1965, resulting in the deaths of three girls, one of whom was a bride-to-be.

"The story is mostly urban legend but there have been sightings on the hill of a ghost dating back to the early 1900s.

"There have been numerous murders and accidents on the hill. In 1934 a girl was picked up on the hill, but vanished when she reached Burham.

"In 1992 a Mr Sharp and a Mr Dawkins had

**SPOOKY:**

Rochester Castle, far left, is in one of the county's most ghostly towns, while St Nicholas Church, left, is in Kent's most haunted village, Pluckley

two separate encounters at either end of the village with a girl who ran out in front of

their vehicle but upon inspection there was no sign of a body."

Mr Arnold said Dover Castle is reported to have numerous ghosts, including soldiers in World War Two uniforms.

"Chatham Dockyard is also an incredibly haunted location, said to harbour several spirits," he added.

"There are regular ghost tours of the Dockyard where there have been reports of ghostly marines marching through the grounds, a haunted clock tower and, according to some, a phantom drummer boy who has also been connected to Fort Amherst nearby."

WHERE TO SEE GHOSTS

- **Rochester** probably Kent's most haunted location
- **Blue Bell Hill near Maidstone** weirdest happenings
- **Dover Castle** numerous ghosts, mainly linked to the wars
- **Chatham Dockyard** harbours several spirits
- **Oxney Bottom near Deal** haunt of a ghostly old woman in grey
- **Tunbridge Wells** The Pantiles has several haunted buildings
- **Pluckley near Ashford** considered Britain's most haunted village

By spooks expert Neil Arnold

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ School deadline ahead

PARENTS are being reminded they must submit their application forms for children starting secondary school in September 2013 no later than this Wednesday, October 31.

All parents will be notified on March 1 of which school their child has been allocated. The appeals process can then begin.

To find out more details see the websites of Kent County Council or Medway Council, depending on your local authority.

➔ Wedding Show today

THOUSANDS are set to descend on Dover Cruise Terminal today (Sunday) for the county's top one-stop shop for anyone planning to tie the knot.

The Wedding Show, organised by Archant Weddings, gives couples the chance to meet with the industry's top suppliers and includes catwalk shows, live music and even a first dance demonstration.

Tickets are free. See www.theweddingshow.co.uk for more details.

➔ Your fireworks guide

ORGANISERS across the county are preparing firework events for next weekend - and you can find out the events nearest you by seeing our online guide at www.kentnews.co.uk.

The constantly updated list provides details of the key events, how much it costs to get in and what time the first rocket takes to the skies.

To see the list visit www.kentnews.co.uk and click on the 'leisure' section.

BONFIRE NIGHT

Who will be the stupid Guy?

AS Bonfire Night approaches, which high-profile figure is to be burnt at the stake in Edenbridge?

Paedophile Jimmy Savile, disgraced Chelsea defender John Terry, and 'plebgate' MP Andrew Mitchell are all in the running to go up in flames.

For years, the town has enjoyed the media spotlight on November 5 as it mocks the rich and famous by building a gigantic effigy in their likeness before setting it alight.

Among the previous victims are glamour model Katie Price, footballers Mario Balotelli and Wayne Rooney, and former Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

Speculation is now rife over who will be this year's target, with Jimmy Savile and the Conservative MP at the centre of the 'pleb' row Andrew Mitchell both being suggested.

Even 2006's Guy, John McCrick, has given his opinion, tweeting: "Andy Murray and if



GUY: Manchester City star Mario Balotelli was last year's victim

not him then his awful mother."

Jon Mitchell, committee member for the Edenbridge Bonfire Society, said a meeting was held this week to make the final decision.

The society will make the

IN THE RUNNING

- Chancellor George Osborne
- TV presenter Jimmy Savile
- Cyclist Lance Armstrong
- Footballer John Terry
- MP Andrew Mitchell

official announcement on Wednesday.

Mr Mitchell said this year's decision was difficult and had to be put to a vote. He said: "I think we have all said nobody has done anything that stupid this year."

Work on the designs was done this week before the Guy is built this weekend in a "secret lair".

When pushed for more detail Mr Mitchell said: "The best hint I can give on the identity of the Guy is two arms, two legs and a head. That narrows it down quite a bit."

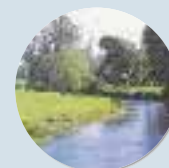
This year's bonfire takes place on November 3.

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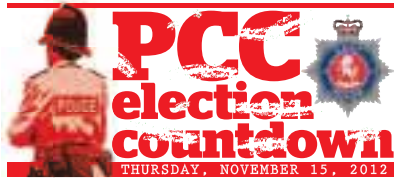
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PCC ELECTION

Candidates line up in race to win police poll



AFTER months of speculation, the list of candidates for next month's election to find the first Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent has been published. Meet the people fighting for your support when we all go to the polls on November 15. You can vote for your first and second choice candidates. **MARIJKE COX** reports



ANN BARNES

Name: Ann Barnes
Party: Standing as an independent
Job: Former teacher
Lives: Lyminge, near Folkestone
Background: Former chair of Kent Police Authority; former independent deputy chair of the National Association of Police Authorities.
Pledges: Relentless focus on cutting crime

and catching criminals, free of party political interference. To fight any government cuts to Kent Police, and to give the electorate a bigger say in the way communities are policed with the introduction of local police boards and consultation before changes to are introduced.



DAI LIYANAGE

Name: Dai Liyanage
Party: standing as an independent
Job: Police recruitment consultant
Lives: Gillingham
Background: Member of Kent Police Authority; former Mayor of Medway; served on Kent County Council, Medway Council, and Gillingham Borough Council.

Pledges: To catch more criminals by engaging with the community more effectively, better equipment for officers and redeploying resources. A safer and calmer community through liaison between schools, parents and police to deal with vandalism and more "bobbies on the beat".



CRAIG MACKINLAY

Name: Craig Mackinlay
Party: Conservative
Job: Chartered accountant
Lives: Chatham
Background: Medway councillor; member of Kent Police Authority; magistrate.
Pledges: Zero tolerance to drugs and antisocial behaviour; strongest action and sanctions against

drug dealers, and support for drug users. He promises regular public meets attended by the PCC, senior police and criminal justice system chiefs, as well as cutting down on bureaucracy.



STEVE UNCLES

Name: Steve Uncles
Party: English Democrats
Job: Contract manager in the health sector
Lives: Dartford
Background: South East area chairman for English Democrats; Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator.
Pledges: To introduce "benefit of the doubt" policing, giving

individuals defending property or family members the benefit of the doubt unless evidence their actions were excessive. Would declare the county a drug-free zone and remove all fixed police speed cameras.



PIERS WAUCHOPE

Name: Piers Wauchope
Party: Ukup
Job: Criminal barrister
Lives: Tunbridge Wells
Background: Tunbridge Wells councillor; served for eight years as a Tory councillor in Camden.
Pledges: A clear commitment to prioritise drug-related

crimes and antisocial behaviour, with a clear plan on crime reduction and defence of frontline policing. Is determined "to restore real policing values" by re-establishing the police in the community and working to ensure there are more police on the beat.



HARRIET YEO

Name: Harriet Yeo
Party: Labour
Job: Charity fundraising manager
Lives: Ashford
Background: Ashford councillor; president of Transport Salaried Staff Association; chair of Labour's National Executive Committee.
Pledges: No privatisation of Kent Police and ensuring

criminals are both punished and rehabilitated. She promises to visit every constituency twice a year to speak to a wide variety of groups and act as a facilitator between communities and the officers who serve them.

with the community, and commission services.

QUESTION: What is the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner?

ANSWER: It replaces the existing Kent Police Authority which currently sets the policing budget and holds Kent Police to account. The PCC will have the power to hire and fire the chief constable, set the county's policing plan, set the Kent Police budget, engage

QUESTION: Who can vote and why should you bother?

ANSWER: Everyone who is eligible to vote can go to the polls. The elected person will be a powerful influence on how our police patrol our streets. They will set the priorities for Kent and make sure they are suitably funded.

INDEPENDENTS LEVEL ACCUSATIONS OF POLITICAL BIAS

NON-party political candidates who were hoping to stand in the election for the most influential policing position in Kent have branded the process "unfair".

They accused the Home Office of designing the election for political parties and said it had been unfairly weighted against independent hopefuls.

Of the six candidates standing in the poll, four are from political backgrounds and the two independents – Dai Liyanage and Ann Barnes – are high-profile individuals; the former being a previous Lib Dem mayor in Medway, and the latter the ex-chair of Kent Police Authority – the organisation being replaced by the PCC on November 22.

Graham Wanstall, from Dover, had been hoping to stand as an independent.

He explained: "The deposit to register as a candidate is £5,000 – it would be far more reasonable to be £500-1,000.

"If you don't have a party to help raise this money it puts you at a disadvantage.

"You need 100 signatures, too, from all over Kent. This is easier for someone in a political party as they have members all over.

"The PCC should have a free mind and not be controlled by a party."

Other casualties include Thanet councillor Ian Driver, Ken Little from Whitstable, and property tycoon Fergus Wilson.

Mr Little said there was an "entrenched bias" towards political parties, including the £5,000 deposit. Mr Wilson dropped out citing government cuts to policing.

The Home Office said: "PCC candidates could have experience in the private, voluntary or public sector. They don't have to be politicians to stand. They can be independent of political parties.

"This is an opportunity for people from all walks of life to stand and to make a difference."



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SPORT

Death threats, tears and smiles as truth emerges over 'Bootgate' saga

By Chrissie Daniels

chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

THE father of a ten-year-old boy who became embroiled in a heated online campaign over a boot thrown into the crowd at the finale of the British Superbikes championship at Brands Hatch has looked to ease tensions by revealing just what happened.

Two weeks ago, Sheppey race ace Shane 'Shakey' Byrne topped a triumphant season by sensationally securing his third British Superbike crown at the West Kingsdown track.

As he stood on the podium and soaked up the adoration of the crowd, he hurled a boot to his fans.

TV footage appeared to show a scuffle which ended with a man walking away with the boot, while a boy was left apparently in tears.

Dubbed 'Bootgate' by fans, a campaign emerged on the internet via the likes of Facebook and Twitter. It claimed the man had barged the boy and snatched the boot, and sought to name and shame him.

However, it has subsequently transpired the truth is very different.



HAPPY:

'Victim' Taylor Rose with a signed photo of Noriyuki Haga; right, Shane 'Shakey' Byrne celebrates his victory

And after revealing the story last week, both the boy's father and the man with the boot have got in touch with us to explain.

The man who got the boots, who wants to remain anonymous, said he had even received death threats.

The boy was in fact Taylor Rose, a 10-year-old British Superbike fan who lives in Surrey.

Dad Jason told us how Taylor did end up with a bruised face from the scuffle but that he doesn't believe anyone set out to harm his son.

Mr Rose, 41, explained how he got tickets as a birthday treat for Taylor, who brought along a friend.

Mr Rose said: "I do not blame the guy because I do not think he hit my son intentionally. Taylor did have a bruise to the right of his face, how that came about I don't know. The man did what everyone else was trying to do, but my son ended up getting hurt. The video footage is not clear.

"I think it was all a big adrenaline rush - everybody went for the boot and the small guy got injured.

"There's been comments saying the man did strike Taylor but I do not think so. I feel sorry for the guy getting a lot of grief."

When the story first broke, race

legend Shane Byrne told this paper he wanted to offer Taylor a day out at Brands Hatch.

Now, Mr Rose has been in contact with British Superbikes and said Taylor and the family plan to head to the racetrack and are set to meet Shakey himself.

Mr Rose said: "Taylor is over the moon that he's going to go there and see Shane."

Last week a man, who claimed to be the one who ended up with the boot, contacted Kent on Sunday defending his name and saying how his world had been turned upside down by the issue.

He anonymously told us: "I've received death threats, and I can tell you that's not nice. If I had something to hide, I would.

"I did not run off with the boot, I walked slowly and only left when everyone else had walked off. The boy hasn't told anyone he was punched. I am 99 per cent sure I didn't touch the boy, and if I did it was totally accidental.

"My picture is going all around the internet, and I'm scared to go out of my house."



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NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Student safety advice

STUDENTS are being urged to step up their security precautions to avoid becoming the latest crime statistic at home and when on nights out.

Police are urging youngsters to ensure valuable items are always kept locked up and security marked, while also reminding students of the perils of heavy drinking.

Ch Supt Steve Corbishley said: "Alcohol dulls people's instincts and awareness of danger."

➔ Ban for drink and drugs

A 41-year-old from West Kingsdown has been banned from driving and fined after being stopped over the legal drink drive limit and in possession of cocaine.

James Botton, of Viking Way, pleaded guilty after being stopped on the A20 in West Kingsdown with more than double the legal limit of alcohol in his blood. He was disqualified from driving for 20 months and fined £110. The ban will be reduced if he completes a course.

➔ Olympic star's visit

LONDON 2012 Olympic bronze medalist Alex Hanson made a special appearance at a school in Swanley.

The hockey ace attended a sports festival at the Hextable School, passing on advice and motivation techniques.

It was organised as part of the Sky Sports Living for Sport project, a free initiative taking place in UK secondary schools.

CRIME

MasterChef star Wallace caught speeding in Jaguar sports car

By Chrissie Daniels

chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

MASTERCHEF star Gregg Wallace found himself in hot water after he was clocked driving at 82mph in his swanky sports car.

More used to being in front of the TV cameras, the presenter found himself on the wrong end of a speed camera as he was clocked breaking the 50mph limit in his £70,000 Jaguar XK on the A249 between Maidstone and Sittingbourne.

And it cost him a £1,330 fine, with six penalty points added to his driving licence. In addition, the punishment was spiced up with £85 in court costs.

He was snapped on April 22 on Detling Hill.

The TV personality, 47, who lives in Seasalter, near Whitstable, pleaded guilty to the offence after being caught by the mobile speed camera unit, but did not appear in court in Maidstone.

Katherine Barrett, communications officer for the Kent and Med-



CAUGHT ON CAMERA: TV star Gregg Wallace was snapped in his Jaguar driving at 82mph in a 50mph zone

way Safety Camera Partnership, said: "Safety cameras operate at sites where people have been killed or seriously injured.

"On this stretch of road from Maidstone towards the county showground there were eight peo-

ple killed or seriously injured within the signed camera area before the site was installed, and two people in the last three years.

"We do not want to catch people speeding, we would like them to drive within the speed limits to as to

reduce the number of crashes and casualties.

"We offer speed awareness courses to drivers who are within a certain threshold, however excessive speed cases such as this are referred to court."

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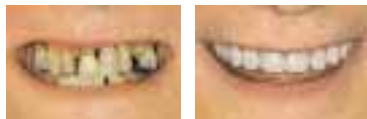
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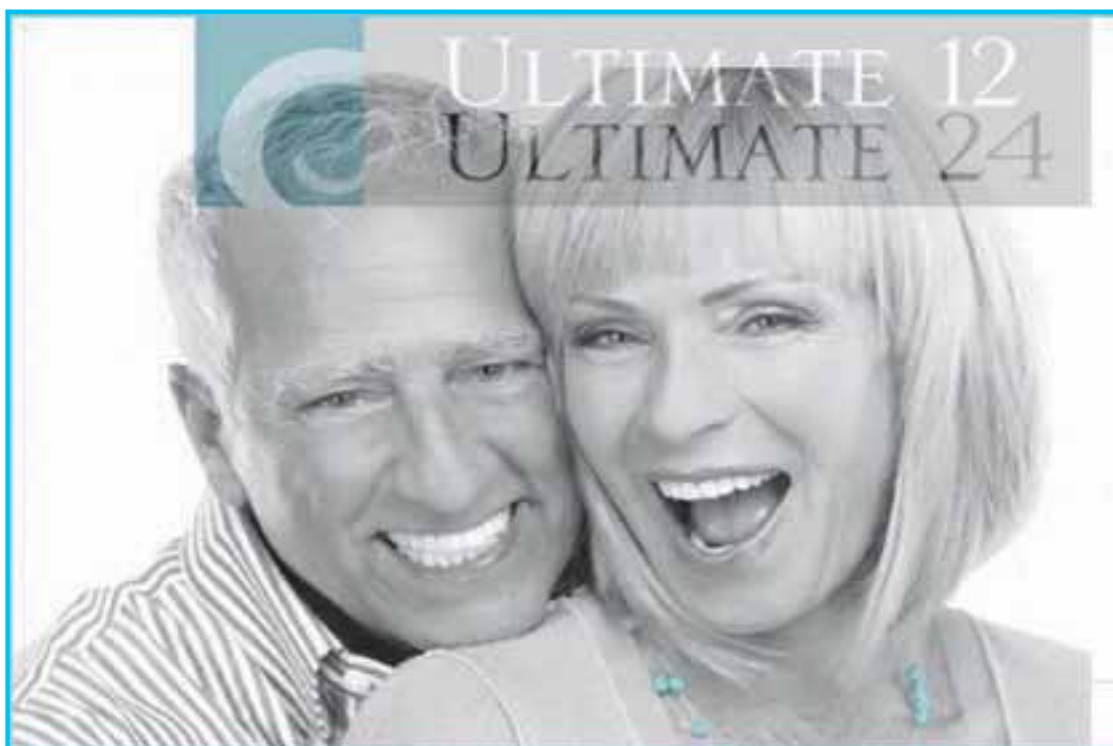
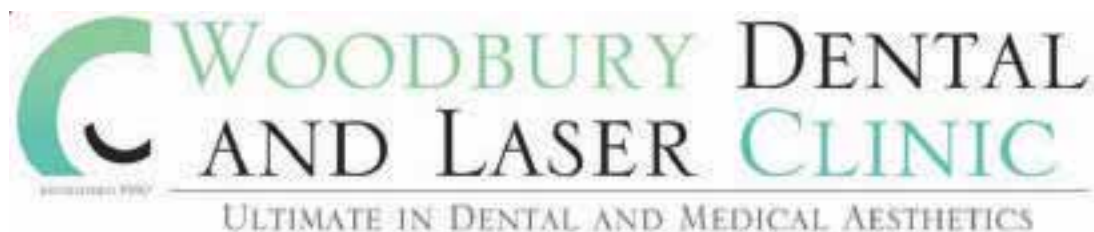
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COMPENSATION

NHS pays out £85k as injured teacher has to give up dream

By Chrissie Daniels

chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

A PE teacher has been awarded an £85,000 settlement after surgeons at the old Pembury Hospital cut a major artery during routine surgery, ending her dream of becoming a personal trainer.

Mother-of-two Anna Robinson, from Horsmonden, was having routine key-hole surgery at the hospital to remove a cyst from her ovary in November 2007 when a doctor cut an artery which provides the main blood supply to the right leg.

The 36-year-old said she is now unable to pursue her dream career as a personal trainer due to abnormal blood flow to her leg causing pain when she exercises.

After launching legal action, she secured an out-of-court settlement of £85,000 from the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust to fund her loss of earnings, past care and physiotherapy.

Mrs Robinson, who worked as a PE teacher for five years in Poland before moving to the UK, was admitted to the hospital in November 2007 for the routine operation which was due to last 45 minutes.

However her husband Peter, 50, received a call later that day to be told his

wife was still in surgery and a vascular surgeon had been called in from King's College in London.

After six-and-a-half hours in theatre, Mrs Robinson was transferred to the intensive care unit at the Kent and Sussex Hospital in Tunbridge Wells, where she spent two days needing 24-hour support. She spent a further two days at Pembury Hospital recovering on a general ward before being allowed home.

She now suffers from claudication which is pain in the lower leg due to limited blood flow to the muscles.

Mrs Robinson said: "I lost a lot of blood during the operation and had to have a blood transfusion which was a big shock as we thought the surgery was routine. I underwent the operation not only in the hope it would resolve my pelvic pain but because I wanted another child and the cyst could have caused problems.

"We're still not sure why my artery was cut but I have been left with a huge scar on my stomach because of the complicated repair work my artery needed and I've had more surgery to try and reduce this.

"The other arteries in my leg have widened through the exercises I do but this can be really painful for me. I've had to buy

exercise equipment so I can train at home and while doctors are amazed by my progress, I'll never get back the levels of strength and fitness I used to have. I can't wear high heels anymore and it hurts to even walk up a hill.

"I still struggle to believe that I can't pursue the career I dreamed about and trained so hard for. Sport was my life before the operation. I just hope the hospital has learnt from what happened so nobody else has to go through what I have."

Kate Major, who specialises in surgery claims at legal firm Irwin Mitchell, said: "Anna is working as a supply teacher but isn't able to get fully involved in the physical activity like she used to and has to explain things rather than demonstrating.

"Although Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust refused to admit liability, we hope lessons are learnt by staff who carry out key-hole surgery and that the training and supervision is improved to prevent similar mistakes being made."

A spokeswoman for the NHS Trust said it is pleased an agreement has been reached. She said: "The out of court settlement was agreed without an admission of liability. The trust wishes Mrs Robinson and her family well for the future."



BLOW: Mrs Robinson was forced to give up personal trainer dream

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TRIBUTE

Oldest Battle of Britain pilot dies, but poetry keeps his memory alive

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE oldest surviving Spitfire pilot to have fought the Luftwaffe during the Battle of Britain in the skies over Kent, has died aged 99.

As well as his dogged determination to save the nation from Hitler's invaders, Flight Lieutenant William Walker also left a major legacy to the county.

The keen poet donated copyright on some of his work to raise money for the Battle of Britain Memorial at Capel-le-Ferne which is fundraising to pay for a new education centre called The Wing.

Memorial supporter and spokesman Malcolm Triggs said: "I used to edit some of his poetry. It is an amazing legacy and we can't thank him enough for what he did for his country and of course the memorial."

They are still trying to raise £2 million for the education centre and are calling on the public for support.

Incredibly, Flt Lt Walker survived being shot down over the Channel in August, 1940, after being sent to see off German bombers approaching Dover. He was even shot in the ankle.

Bailing out, he plunged into the icy waters

and clung to a shipwreck on Goodwin Sands, until eventually being rescued by a passing fishing boat.

Flt Lt Walker enjoyed recounting the story of the surgeon prising the armour-piercing bullet from his ankle during his stay at the RAF Hospital, in Halton, Buckinghamshire.

It shot out and hit the ceiling. He kept the bullet as a souvenir.

When the war ended, he eventually became chairman of brewery Ind Coope.

He had been planning to attend the trust's End of the Battle Gala Dinner where guests included the patron, Prince Michael of Kent, last Thursday but suffered a stroke and was taken to hospital.

Mr Triggs said: "His absence saddened the gathering at the dinner and was made even more poignant by the fact that in recent years it had become traditional for William to raise a toast to his fellow Battle of Britain pilots after reading his poem Absent Friends."

His life was always the RAF and he was among those who attended the annual memorial flypast at Capel-le-Ferne, last year.

At the time, the daring pilot told this newspaper: "I write poems for pleasure and as a mental

stimulant and had never envisaged that a day might come when they might be used to help a cause so close to my heart.

"When the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust decided to print a book of my verses, I immediately realised it was an opportunity to repay, in some measure, a great debt of gratitude for many wonderful years of kindness and help.

"By donating the copyright of all my verses to the trust I hope it will prove to be helpful in raising revenue towards the important learning centre project, and for maintaining our memorial site."

He added: "My annual pilgrimage to Capel-le-Ferne to attend our memorial service and see our memorial wall gives me the opportunity to see again the names of so many friends who are constantly in my thoughts, and it is comforting to know they will always be remembered and thought of by those who visit the site."

To donate to The Wing send cheques payable to the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust to The Secretary, Battle of Britain Memorial Trust, PO Box 337, West Malling, ME6 9AA.

Visit www.battleofbritainmemorial.org for more information.



HERO: Flight Lieutenant William Walker was shot down over the Channel, a book of his poetry raises funds for the Battle of Britain memorial

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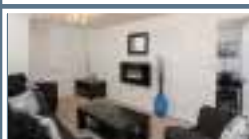
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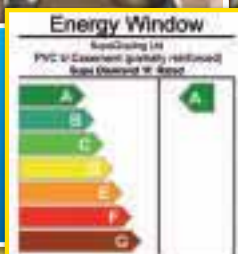
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Variety



Beyond the Barricade
Thu 15 Nov 7.30pm
Popular Music



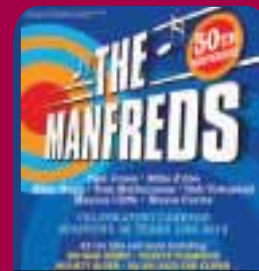
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News

PROPERTY

Property values to rocket as result of a lack of new homes

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

AFTER years of stagnation, house prices across the county are set to soar by 61 per cent over the next 10 years, according to figures released this week.

And the research by the National Housing Federation (NHF) says the steep rise will be the consequence of "years of not building enough homes" putting a premium on existing housing stock.

It means the average price for a five-bedroom house in Kent which currently stands at £634,691 would rocket to more than £1 million by 2022.

But while homeowners could be set to cash in, it spells bad news for first-time buyers desperately trying to raise sufficient funds for a deposit, and will see those in the rental sector face rocketing increases.

According to the Home Truths 2012 survey, it would mean the average rental cost for a house in Kent would soar from £733 today to £1,137.

Now the federation, which represents 1,200 housing associations across England, fears the property market could be lurching towards a crisis, pricing many out of the market altogether. It is calling on the Government to act to encourage more house building.

Warren Finney, south east lead manager for the NHF, said: "It's crunch time for our unsustainable housing market, with house prices and rents set to rocket in Kent as thousands of families are already struggling to afford their home."

PRICE GUIDE

One bedroom house
2012 average £110,342
2022 predicted £177,800

Two bedroom house
2012 £175,857
2022 £283,129

Three bedroom house
2012 £242,326
2022 £390,144

Four bedroom house
2012 £402,017
2022 £647,247

Five bedroom house
2012 £634,691
2022 £1,021,852

Predicted house values based on current Kent average figures and predictions based on National Housing Federation figures.

"One in 16 families in the south east is currently on the waiting list for social housing and it looks like the situation is going to get far worse."

"Successive governments have failed to tackle the under-supply of housing. Now time is running out to fix the problem, and a whole generation are at risk of being priced out of renting a home, let alone buying."

"Being unable to afford the homes they need can have a huge impact on people's aspirations, ultimately affecting the economy."

"As our report shows, even working families are becoming

more reliant on housing benefit to help pay their private rent. It's clear the chronic undersupply of new homes needs to be tackled now, to ease the financial pressure."

Sue Foxley, head of research at estate agents Cluttons, forecast a steady growth in values over the coming years – with the market benefitting from an influx of affluent residents to the county from the capital.

She said these commuters would be attracted by improvements in the transport infrastructure which have slashed journey times to London.

"I have absolute optimism when it comes to property values," she said. "The High Speed One rail service has opened up new areas for those who want to live in the country but work in London, but this takes time to have an effect."

"We have seen a slight upturn in values this year and while this has been driven to a great extent by high value properties in the west of the county there is also activity at the lower end of the market – a sign that schemes in place to encourage first time buyers are starting to have an impact."

At the launch of the recent 21st annual Kent Property Report – which reviews the county's commercial, retail and residential values – residential property rises saw a 0.2 per cent rise, fuelled primarily, it said, by the sale of a selection of sizeable homes in west Kent.

It pointed to a number of areas of potential business growth which could act as a carrot to newcomers to the county.

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News

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AIR TRAVEL

New flights on menu at Dutch dinner party?

THE airline considering launching flights from Manston Airport to Amsterdam will be hosting a dinner in Kent next month, fuelling speculation that a decision on the issue could be imminent.

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, which is merged with Air France, revealed last month it was in talks with Manston owner Infratil about daily passenger flights to Schiphol in Amsterdam.

From there, passengers could travel to destinations including America and Asia. This means east Kent could be the gateway to the rest of the world and residents would no longer have to travel to London to fly internationally.

A timescale for the final decision on the move has not yet been announced, but KoS can reveal a dinner is to be hosted by KLM and Air France. The buffet dinner will take place at Canterbury Cathedral Lodge on November 13.

A KLM spokeswoman was keeping tight-lipped about the event and said a decision on the Manston flights has not yet been made.



SUPPORT: Victims' groups to receive more cash

CRIME

Victim support groups set to benefit by £50m as justice minister hits offenders in the pocket

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

VICTIMS of crime are to benefit from an additional £50 million of help and assistance – taken straight from the pockets of criminals.

Minister for Victims Helen Grant has overseen a massive overhaul of the way services for victims and witnesses of crime are funded, and the 'victim surcharge' paid by offenders will be increased and extended.

Currently offenders only contribute around a sixth of the funding that supports victims' services, with taxpayers providing the rest.

Extending the surcharge is the next step in a drive to see offenders provide up to £50m more each year for victims' services. This is on top of the £66m central government already provides.

The money raised will go to support local organisations that have a proven track record in supporting victims.

Among those that could benefit are children's groups, and charities supporting victims of rape, domestic violence, hate crime, burglary, anti-social behaviour and other violent crimes including murder and manslaughter.

Ms Grant, who is also MP for Maidstone and The Weald, said: "Only £1 in every six the Government spends supporting victims of crime comes from offenders. Hard-working and innocent taxpayers pay for the rest. This balance is wrong and is something I am determined to change."

"Criminals create victims; as well as being punished for their crimes, they should help to repair the damage they have done."

Previously the surcharge stood at just £15 on top of any fine – with criminals receiving prison sentences escaping any financial penalty.

But under rules introduced this month, those convicted and forced to pay a financial penalty will have to pay an additional 10 per cent of any fine, with a maximum of £120 and a minimum of £20. A conditional discharge has a £15 surcharge and a community sentence £60. Custodial sentences add a charge of £80, £100 or £120.

The charges will not apply for Fixed Penalty Notices, including those issued for motoring offences.

Ms Grant said: "For the first time, more offenders will literally be made to pay for their crimes. And the more serious the sentence, the more they will be forced to pay. Criminals need to step up and recognise the impact their crime have on others."

The announcement comes after it was revealed that, in the last year, around £800,000 has been taken from prisoners' wages and given to the charity Victim Support.

Winston's Wish, a national charity providing emotional and practical support to some of the 24,000 children who are bereaved of a parent each year and those coping with the death of a sibling, is one group which receives Victims Surcharge support.

It helps people like the family of 19-year-old Mark, who was murdered in an

PUNCHES LASTED HOURS

THE help offered by organisations that support victims can be crucial in enabling people to recover from a traumatic event.

Sue (not her real name) now works with an organisation which may benefit from the new funding and was driven to help others after enduring harrowing emotional, mental, physical and sexual abuse at the hands of her ex-husband, which drove her to nearly commit suicide.

After three attempts to escape and 10 years of mental and physical torment, she managed to free herself from a living nightmare.

"I was a naive 20-year-old; I'd just had one other relationship and he groomed me. He was romantic and powerful at the same time in my eyes, but it was just one-and-a-half months after we met that the first incident took place.

"He got angry about something and slapped me. I was in shock, but very quickly he persuaded me he didn't mean to do it by apologising."

Marriage meant cutting family ties, and Sue was pregnant in the first six months.

"We were at a party and he accused me of flirting with someone. Back at home we were in bed when the questions started again. They were followed by slaps and punches which lasted three or four hours. Then came a violent rape.

"It was never just one slap. I even used to clock-watch knowing how long he would keep beating me.

"I know now he had a second relationship – a mistress and four children he fathered with her while he was married to me. Another child came later."

With her two children Sue finally fled the marital home, and women's refuges and family members helped her before she filed for divorce.

When her son reached 20 he wanted to find his father, and they discovered on the internet he'd died in a road accident.

"A day or so later I just collapsed. I'd spent 12 years looking over my shoulder, dreading being found by him, but now he was dead and I was so grateful he was because finally I could stop being scared.

"When a woman has been through this sort of abuse, there is only so much help that can be given – she will always be haunted. But there is practical and therapeutic help which can make a big difference."

unprovoked attack in 2009.

After attending a residential group for families bereaved by murder, Mark's mother said: "From all the negatives in our lives, this is a positive. It was so good to know that professionals were keeping me safe; helping me to express myself"

GETTING TOUGH:
Justice minister
Helen Grant

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News

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CHARITY

Young carer joins the rickshaw challenge to help Children in Need

By Chrissie Daniels

chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

A BRAVE teenager hopes to raise hundreds of thousands of pounds for Children in Need by following in the tracks of One Show presenter Matt Baker.

The BBC star raised £1.9 million for the annual charity extravaganza last year by pedalling a rickshaw 484 miles from Edinburgh to London.

Now a group of six youngsters – including carer James Trimmer, 18, from Lenham – will look to emulate his success by riding the rickshaw 411 miles from Llandudno in North Wales to London.

All money raised will go towards Children in Need, which raises money for disadvantaged children and young people.

On November 9, the six-strong team, all of whom have been either supported by or still are supported by Children in Need funded projects, will embark on their own eight day journey, taking it in turns to pedal the bike.

Mr Baker will cycle alongside Team Rickshaw, offering advice and support and the BBC will film the adventure.

Young carer Mr Trimmer looks after his brother Stephen who has severe autism, his older sister Sophie who has autism, epilepsy and severe arthritis and his mother Mandy who has a brain injury and short-term memory loss.



RICKSHAW CHALLENGE: From left Darren Tambin, Lauren Bremner, Jack Booth, Jamila Hemans, Lenham's James Trimmer, The One Show's Matt Baker and Alex Jones, with Ciaran Fitzgerald

Each morning, Mr Trimmer helps Sophie with her physiotherapy before heading to Canterbury College where he studies motor vehicle engineering.

Mr Trimmer has received help from Crossroads Care West Kent – which is supported by Children in Need and provides respite breaks for carers – since he was eight-years-old.

He said: "I like the idea of raising money for a charity that helped Crossroads and it's nice to get young carers known."

"Crossroads has become a second family and has supported both me and my family. It's enabled me to go to places I wouldn't normally go to, like a respite trip to Wales."

"I love meeting other carers and hearing their stories. It made me realise I wasn't the only one. Going to the youth club I get to socialise, which is

something I don't normally do. "It's nice to help all kinds of different people and give others help and support."

"The challenge is going to be very hard but it will be a great achievement to get to the end. The team is a really nice bunch of people, a lot have some incredible stories with very strong backgrounds. They are genuinely nice people and having Matt Baker at the helm is quite cool."

Matt Baker said "These youngsters are going to have their work cut out."

"That's why the public needs to get behind Team Rickshaw and come out and cheer them on; I know from last year what a difference the public's support can make. We need to get behind them as they strive to raise as much money as possible for BBC Children in Need."

FUNDING

Cash scheme boost

NEW Ash Green is to benefit from £10,000 of funding after successfully applying for cash through the Our Town First scheme.

The money will be used to support the shopping centre and raise its profile.

The scheme is part of the Government's strategy to breathe new life back into flagging town centres.

TRANSPORT

MP in rail fare talks

TUNBRIDGE Wells MP Greg Clark has met with Southeastern managing director Charles Horton to seek assurances of no further price increases for commuters after the Government confirmed a fare increase cap of inflation plus one per cent.

Southeastern, however, can legally up the fare from any particular station by up to five per cent more.

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News

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THE ORCHID

Give your opinion and you could win an iPod

THE latest issue of The Orchid newspaper, celebrating the Kent Downs, is now available, and with it comes the chance to win half a case of Kent Downs wine or an iPod shuffle.

From ancient woodland to the farmed landscape, we're surrounded by breathtaking countryside that's crying out to be explored, and this issue of The Orchid – packed with information about the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – is now available.

As well as an interesting mix of articles ranging from the modern landscape to heritage, biodiversity to access and involvement, it also introduces the Management Plan Review, which needs your help.

To ensure our beautiful Downs are managed in the best possible way, this paper includes a short questionnaire to find out what you think is the most important aspect of the Kent Downs AONB and which areas need to be prioritised.

And if you choose to give your name and address when submitting the questionnaire you'll also be in with the chance of winning a half case of Kent Downs wine or an iPod shuffle as a token of appreciation for your efforts.

So make sure you pick up your copy today. The newspaper is available throughout the Kent Downs area in visitor information centres, libraries, cafes, pubs, farm shops, petrol stations, local shops, at www.kentdowns.org.uk, or call Kent Downs AONB Unit on 01303 815170.



FOOD

Oyster prices to rocket as French swoop after stocks killed by herpes

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AMOROUS Frenchmen are snapping up Kent's oysters after their supplies were mysteriously killed off by herpes.

The increased demand could lead to price rises on the Kent coast of around 30 per cent.

The French love oysters, which are famed for their apparent aphrodisiac properties.

But a virus is laying waste to their own stocks, so they are turning to Whitstable and other Kent areas, known around the world for producing the best quality oysters.

French suppliers are buying up as many oysters as they can to replace their own dwindling numbers, caused by a new micro-variant of oyster herpesvirus. The disease is always present, but has become lethal and is now widespread in

France, wiping out a large proportion of oysters before they breed the next generation. It's thought not to affect humans, but can easily wipe out whole colonies of the shellfish.

As chefs wonder if they can continue including oysters on their menus to keep romantics in the mood, suppliers in Kent are seeing an upturn in demand from across the Channel.

Casanova's conquest of some 122 women has in part been put down to the 50 oysters he scoffed for breakfast. And it's not just a myth – scientists believe the high levels of zinc and amino acids help boost the libido in both sexes.

Britain annually produces 1,100 tonnes of oysters but it seems around 15 per cent is immediately going abroad. And it's no wonder – the French used to produce an incredible 130,000 tonnes.

John Bayes has run Seasalter Shellfish for more than 50 years, and has an oyster bed off Reculver. He said: "Yes, the French are coming over and buying in large numbers.

"Prices have been stagnant for 30 years, but over the past year, they have risen to a half decent level. It's not as good as it used to be, but it's getting better and we are just about matching inflation rises now.

"I have worked hard setting up links with French companies and that is going well. We are also setting up a new building to sell market oysters, which is an exciting project."

David Jarrad, director of the Shellfish Association, said: "The French have been to the UK and are buying as much as they can, both in market size oysters but also in half-grown stocks and in seed stocks."

He warned of a shortage over



DELICACY:

The French are snapping up Whitstable oysters in a bid to meet demand after a large number of their own stocks died

the winter and sharp price rises.

The main shortages are for rock oysters which the Whitstable Oyster Company sells to diners for £9 per half dozen, but it produces its own restaurant supplies and has kept prices the same as last year.

A spokesman said: "Some London restaurants have put up their prices dramatically. We are lucky because we have our own supply."

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NEW FOCUS:

Chris Hoy, the winner of six Olympic gold medals in cycling, has sped things up with a move to racing in a Radical SR1 Cup car

SPORT

Olympian swaps his bike for motorsport at Brands Hatch

OLYMPIC cycling legend Chris Hoy is no stranger to moving at speed – but his career is about to take a new route after he confirmed he would be taking part in a motorsport series which kicks off at Brands Hatch.

Mr Hoy, who has won six Olympic gold medals, this week confirmed his entry into the popular Radical SR1 Cup series which takes place over eight races. Aside from the West Kingsdown track, he will also be burning rubber at Snetterton, Oulton Park and Cadwell Park.

He will make his debut in a 2013 Radical SR1 car, powered by a 185bhp Suzuki Hayabusa motorbike engine, enough to take it to 138mph, with a 0-60mph time of just 3.6 seconds.

And Team GB's most decorated Olympian says swapping pedal power for petrol power is a dream come true.

The race series starts at Brands next June, and anyone can enter, providing they have the £37,800 entry fee. Hoy will race for a team, therefore paying a reduced fee.

The former BBC Sports Personality of the Year winner has been getting to grips with the car at Bedford Autodrome – run by MotorSport Vision, which also owns Brands.

Mr Hoy said: "It's challenging but exciting, and fun to drive. I think it's the right amount of power for a driver of my ability but it's fast – it certainly feels fast – but it's not too intimidating.

"I think it's going to take me a little time to get used to the aerodynamics, because there's a bit of a leap of faith throwing yourself into the corner and braking later than the point you would normally brake in a car that doesn't have the same downforce, so it's a whole new experience. I'm starting to experience just how much grip you have with these cars."

Former Le Mans winner and race instructor, Andy Wallace said: "He picked it all up incredibly well; he's obviously learnt a lot on his trackdays. The advice I gave him he took onboard immediately and both his lines and technique were spot on."

News

FUNDRAISING

Family's plea for cash to help keep them together during cancer treatment

By Chrissie Daniels

chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

FRIENDS of a father-of-two with a life-threatening brain tumour have organised a charity football match in a bid to raise the money needed to fly his family to America where he will receive treatment.

Joe Robson, 28, from Erith, was diagnosed with a rare type of cancer – chondrosarcoma – in his brain in July and had a seven-hour operation in August to remove some of it.

He is due to have the rest of the tumour removed in the next few weeks but will need proton therapy to stop it coming back – which is not available in the UK. The therapy is a stronger, much more precise form of the radiotherapy given to cancer patients where doctors beam protons onto the diseased tissue to get rid of it.

Mr Robson will fly to Florida



FAMILY: Joe Robson wants to have his daughters and wife for support during his radiotherapy

for the treatment, which will be paid for by the NHS, but he wants his wife Hayley and their two young daughters Scarlett, four, and Lacey, one, to go too.

The treatment will take three months to complete and so the family needs to raise £10,000 for travel and accommodation.

Now, friends of Mr Robson, who worked as a security guard at Goals 5-a-side football centre in Dartford before his diagnosis, are rallying around him to

raise the much-needed cash.

On November 18, 24 teams of eight players will take part in a charity football event at the Dartford site.

As well as the football, there will be an auction including a signed Simon Cowell photograph and a VIP day to Charlton Athletic Football Club.

So far, £2,500 has been raised towards the trip from smaller charity fundraisers, but Mr Robson's wife is hoping they will reach their target through the football event.

Mrs Robson, 26, said the couple had only been married for a few weeks when they got the news of the tumour.

She said: "It's been awful, we are on anti-depressants and trying to keep things as normal as we can for the children."

She added: "If we do not get the money we can't go. We want to be there for him, three months is a long time."

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News

HEALTH

How historic home's

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

IT is unlikely that many visitors to the historic Penshurst Place will connect the trimming of its miles of hedgerows to playing a key role in the fight against one of the biggest global killers.

Owned by Philip Sidney – the second Viscount De L'Isle and Lord Lieutenant of Kent – it would take a leap of imagination to believe the 14th century building, set in 48-acres of carefully manicured grounds near Tonbridge, has any role to play in medical advances.

Yet the two are intrinsically linked, with tonnes of clippings being sent each year to a high-tech medical company which extracts from them a key component for use in cancer treatments.

And this season marks the 20th anniversary of the yew hedge trimmings being used in such a way.

Each year since 1993, the home and gardens, once a hunting lodge used by King Henry VIII, have supplied



the clippings to West Sussex-based firm Limehurst, which harvests medicinal and cosmetic plants.

The clippings are chopped and put into large dryers to seal

them, before being shipped to cancer treatment laboratories overseas.

Once in the laboratory, the taxane compound needed for use in cancer treatment is ex-

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hedges aid cancer patients



WHAT IS A TAXANE?

Taxanes have a unique way of preventing the growth of cancer cells by affecting cell structures called microtubules, which play an important role in cell function.

They are widely used as chemotherapy agents in cancer treatments.

A recent report by a US medical college concluded they were particularly effective in fighting prostate cancer.

However, the body can develop a resistance to them.

plants were screened to identify their benefits.

Co-owner at Limehurst, Mike How, explains: "Penshurst Place is one of our largest suppliers of yew clippings.

"Yew is the only plant in Europe that has the extract needed for use in some cancer treatments and the chemical compound taxane, which is found in English yew.

"Only the growing tips of the yew hedging are harvested and this must be done during a brief ten week period when the compound is active.

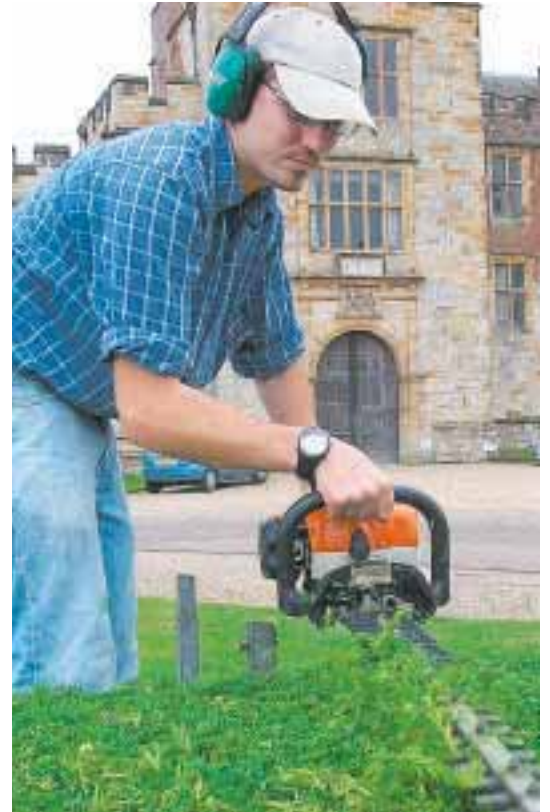
"We collect around 300 tonnes of fresh yew each year and travel across the south of England, up as far as the Mid-

lands and Norfolk, to harvest this in sufficient quantities."

Cory Furness, head gardener at Penshurst Place, adds: "The yew hedges form the boundaries within the 11-acre walled gardens; dividing the area into garden 'rooms' and are part of the historical landscape here.

"Every year two gardeners work full time on clipping the hedges, which takes five to six weeks in the late summer and early autumn.

"The yew hedging is a mile long, but because our gardeners have to trim all sides, they actually cut three miles of hedging. As a result, we normally generate around four tonnes of clippings a season."



LIFE-SAVING: Cory Furness trims the growing tips of the yew. Main picture. The yew hedging at Penshurst Place is a mile long

tracted under controlled conditions from this otherwise poisonous plant.

The anti-cancer drugs produced from the yew clippings are then used to help patients

with lung, ovarian, breast, neck and head cancer.

The taxane chemical was discovered in 1967 in a US National Cancer Institute programme where more than 200

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KENT REMEMBERED



IMMORTALISED: Canterbury Cathedral's memorial to Archbishop Thomas Becket, murdered in 1170

Holy relics that could make the crippled walk

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE strange stories of the Christian relics which were such a strong feature of life in the Middle Ages is the subject of a new book.

Holy Bones, Holy Dust: How Relics Shaped the History of Medieval Europe by Charles Freeman, recalls how artifacts with connections to saints – or even Christ himself – were everywhere.

Whether bones, hair, blood, teeth, milk, pieces of the True Cross or Crown of Thorns, they were thought to bring the believer close to a saint who might ask God for help on their behalf.

And foremost among the shrines was that of Thomas Becket, which brought world renown to Canterbury Cathedral.

The murder of the archbishop on December 29, 1170, is part of the mythology of both Kent and the Christian church.

His tomb no longer stands, but memorials and stained glass windows to the saint are an important facet of the imposing home of the worldwide Anglican church.

Four knights from the court of King Henry II killed the cleric in the cathedral, the first downward sword stroke glanced off his skull and cut through to the shoulder bone, two more cuts to the head followed and as Becket fell, the top of his head was sliced off.

The murder followed a series of disagreements between the churchman and King Henry, formerly a good friend.

The knights most likely acted on their own accord, but the monarch was vilified and undertook penance.

And in the aftermath of the killing it was quickly put forward that Becket was a martyr to his faith – even though history points to disagreements on both sides.

A witness called Benedict of Peterborough said the ransacking of Becket's palace – which took place after his death – was an imitation of the di-

viding up of Christ's clothes after the crucifixion.

And another important factor was his appearance. Freeman quotes Benedict on Becket's likeness in death "while blood in the likeness of a crown, perhaps in a sign of sanctity lay around his head, his face nevertheless seemed entirely freed from blood, except for a thin line which descended from the right temple to the left cheek, crossing his nose".

The body was buried without any washing or embalming, and its own blood acted as 'perfume' with no spices added.

Then miracles were reported. First a shirt dipped in blood was said to have cured a paralysed woman and "the blind see, the deaf hear, the mute speak, the crippled walk, the fevered are relieved, the possessed are freed from the devil" according to a chronicler named John of Salisbury.

The prior then sent a petition to the Pope for canonisation so "Thomas, of holy memory, once Archbishop of Canterbury, who accepting the supreme penalty in defence of the Church's liberties, attained the crown of martyrdom".

Pilgrims flocked to Canterbury, bringing money and other wealth to its inhabitants – as Chaucer once described.

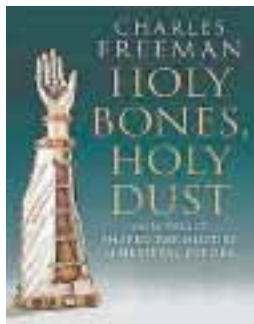
The story has a bizarre end. When Henry VIII fell out with the Church of Rome he set about destroying shrines associated with the Catholic faith.

The King portrayed Becket as a rebel against the crown and he was 'tried' at his tomb – by being ordered to perform a miracle in 30 days.

When nothing happened, in September, 1538, his ornate tomb was broken up and his bones scattered.

But saints' relics continued to be prized well into recent times – and when Pope John Paul II died samples of blood were displayed in a church in his home city of Krakow, Poland.

■ **Holy Bones, Holy Dust** is published by Yale University Press.



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OPINION

Hazard signs for young drivers

Motoring lawyer **David Barton** is keen to educate young drivers on how the law will affect them once they have gained their licence...

KENT'S young drivers are dangerously ill-informed when it comes to how the law affects them.

It seems that every other week there are sad new statistics about the number of young drivers who have car accidents – and suffer life-changing consequences or worse still, lose their lives – just months after passing their driving tests.

Inexperienced new drivers are more likely to have an accident in the first two years after ditching their L-plates than at any other time.

Between 2006-08 alone, more than 500 young people died or were seriously injured on Kent roads.

As a motoring lawyer with 30 years' experience of representing Kent motorists, I have first-hand knowledge of the risks of driving dangerously.

Time and again, I've met people who have made bad choices behind the wheel –

ranging from a simple speeding ticket to being involved in a serious accident involving other drivers.

It saddens me some of those have been new drivers with only a few months' driving experience and no real knowledge about how the law affects them once they pass their test.

I am also a parent of three young drivers and know how worrying it is when a new driver tears up the L-plates and drives solo for the first time.

So when the Association for British Insurers (ABI) recently called for an overhaul in how young people learn to drive, I took notice. It's an issue I feel passionately about.

The ABI recommended that learners spend a minimum of one year with L-plates before they can take a test. And that when they do, there should be restrictions on night-time driving and how many young passengers they can carry, and a

reduced drink-driving limit.

Spending longer learning to drive would give young people more time to realise the responsibilities they have when they get in a car – and increase their awareness of the countless hazards that have to be negotiated on our roads.

Through my work as a lawyer, I know that many young people are out there on the roads with little knowledge about the law, or believing incorrect information passed on from their friends.

There are some alarming myths that need to be busted.

Few young drivers realise you can lose your licence on just six points in the first two years after passing your test (compared to 12 points for everyone else).

Some think you can drink two pints of lager and still legally drive. And that if you eat a big meal it'll actually lower your alcohol levels if you have



6699

I know how worrying it is when a new driver tears up L-plates for the first time

a breath test. Then there's drug-driving and using a mobile phone behind the wheel, both trends growing at an alarming rate.

Many young drivers don't realise the onus is on them to understand the law – ignorance is no excuse.

That's why I'm touring Kent schools to talk to sixth formers who are learning to drive. It's part of a campaign called Lose Your L-Plates, Not Your Licence.

I'm hoping it will encourage them to drive more responsibly when they're given the freedom of being a qualified driver.

I'm asking teachers or schools who'd like me to give a talk to their students to get in touch via my website www.motorists-lawyer-kent.co.uk.

Learning to drive is such an exciting time for young people, but it comes with responsibility. It's down to those of us with years of experience to pass that knowledge on.

KOS COMMENT

Don't ignore this crucial vote – take part in history

THE race is well and truly on for the position of Kent's first Police and Crime Commissioner.

But almost certainly there will be many people still unaware or unsure of what the whole fuss is about. We can only hope that a fierce fight between the candidates will get people talking.

It's crucial that people take to the polls. This is about policing; something everyone will have an opinion on at some point in their life. The PCC will hold the most influential policing role in Kent and will set the county's priorities – your priorities. So while the battle rages on between the contenders, take a moment to look at what they are offering and take part in this piece of history on November 15.

Official end to summer

IT'S that time of year again when many of us will spend a whole day confused as to why it's got dark so early and the TV schedule is not matching times on our watches.

Let's try and avoid that this weekend and remember the clocks go back, and with it we get a long Sunday lie-in.

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We need the new airport

MUCH has already been written about the estuary airport project, but the facts are:

The proposal has never been formally debated with the arguments for, or against, properly aired by well-informed people.

The 'Say No' campaign has many vociferous supporters, though many seem very ill informed.

The fact of the matter is the country must have an up-to-date international airport if it is to remain economically competitive. Heathrow is now unfit for purpose, being really only a former RAF aerodrome, located in the wrong place.

A new, specially built airport is going to be created, as it must, and at the end of the day everybody will have to accept the elected govern-

ment's decision, like it or not.

Just think about some of the advantages:

The horrible monstrosity that is Kingsnorth power station chimney stack will be pulled down and all the other obsolete industrial eyesores, cranes, sheds, jetties, old barges, etc, will disappear.

The wreck of the Richard Montgomery will be removed or made safe, at long last. Acres of derelict and neglected salt marsh will be reclaimed, and put to good use. I am certain the birds will just move elsewhere.

The Medway towns will be rejuvenated and will come to life again after decades of depression and poverty. Property prices will rise. Business will expand, and many new jobs will become available. A prosperous future for the whole modernised area will become a fact.

The 'noise factor' is a red herring as the flight path will be predominately east-west, and over water, and

at least five miles distant.

Regarding pollution – just go outside and look up. The sky overhead (in Rainham) is already full of high flying aircraft and their contrails, with three or four being visible during daylight, even more at night when they show lights.

The time has come to stop burying heads in sand, to 'think big', and to embrace the 21st century.

Thank you Lord Foster, for your brilliant ideas.

**RJ Church,
by email**

BBC protected celebrity Savile

WHEN considering the case of the BBC Newsnight programme's investigation into the Jimmy Savile allegations, I could not help but think that if they had been investigating a Catholic priest or indeed any kind of clergyman, there would be no way they would have

dropped it if the case was as strong as against Savile.

This is not to play down the crimes of priests or anybody else, but it seems that the BBC as a collective body at best didn't want to believe the allegations against Savile because he had worked for them; and at worst, subconsciously were less bothered by the alleged abuse because it had been committed by a celebrity, rather than a clergyman, politician or even an ordinary member of the public.

Some people might consider this paranoid, but I suspect that many people will share my view.

**Daniel Watson,
Maidstone**

Small charities need help too

WHILE it is sad to read the Cats Protection has had to close its doors to new arrivals because it is so "overwhelmed"

(KoS, October 21), I wonder if anyone pays any attention to the plight of countless small animal rescues working out of people's homes all over the country?

Cats in Crisis has been caring for up to 150 cats and kittens throughout the summer, in a variety of garden sheds, spare bedrooms, bathrooms, airing cupboards, converted garages, and the like.

We don't have the benefit of a well-known name, or of extensive fundraising potential. We don't have nice charity shops, a proper sanctuary or dedicated vehicles. Everyone works long hours, is unpaid and worn out.

Every month our expenditure exceeds income and we have to subsidise the bills from our own pensions and wages. In addition, we are increasingly being asked to help pay vets' bills for owners struggling to meet the astronomical costs of major treatments such as

road accidents, dentals, etc and are turning more and more people down because we cannot meet our own costs, let alone theirs.

So please spare a thought, and perhaps a couple of quid for us small guys.

Anyone able to offer a cat a new home can contact us on 07796 633306 or visit our website catsincrisisthanet.wordpress.com to learn more.

**Mary Knott, Chairman,
Cats in Crisis Thanet**

PCC vote will be too political

UNLIKE June Moore of Rusthall (Letters, October 21) I shall not be voting for any Police and Crime Commissioner candidate standing on a political ticket and if I don't receive any information from independent candidates, so that I can make an informed judgment, I shall not be voting at all.

I believe the outcome of the process has the prospect of 'politicising' the police, and candidates representing political parties should not be allowed. The only information for the Kent commissioner post that I have so far received has been from the candidate for the Conservative Party.

This is hardly surprising, as a potential independent candidate for another area withdrew his application, because he said the process was so weighted in favour of the political parties' candidates that it would be almost impossible for an independent candidate to generate sufficient support to win.

I believe that when it's over the results will show in possibly all 41 police areas where elections are being held, that a candidate representing a political party has been elected.

For example, in the Humber-side police area, the former Labour Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, is standing and has already launched his election manifesto. Being the most high-profile candidate standing there, who would bet against him being elected?

How, in these times of economic austerity, the Government could sanction such a profligate waste of public money on this political gimmick, just beggars belief.

**Christopher Hudson-Gool,
Maidstone**

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Edited by **Adam Aiken**



Put on right footing to find lost pension cash

Q I SHALL reach 60 in November. Thirty years ago, I worked for a chain of shoe shops for about five years and made contributions to its pension scheme.

I left and moved away, and I believe the company was taken over or closed down. Is there any way to trace my pension money?

A BECAUSE lots of people have lost touch with their pension savings over the years, the government set up the Pension Tracing Service (0845 600 2537).

It has files on thousands of old pension schemes and should be able to find yours and tell you how to claim.

Q MY pension is linked to inflation, and the July figures show prices are 2.6pc higher. However, nothing I buy or see advertised seems to be just 2.6pc more expensive. What about the big price rises in things such as gas and electric that seemed to come in two or three years ago? Those price rises are still there.

A INFLATION is measured on a year-to-year price changes in a basket of goods and services. Price rises that happened more than a year ago drop out of the picture. They have already been included in the figures that affected whatever pension increase you got last year.

The July figure largely reflected a fall in petrol prices, which typically fell from more than 140p a litre a few months ago to about 137p a litre.

This was still a rise on a year ago, but enough to hold the overall inflation rate at 2.6pc – half the peak of 5.2pc seen in September 2011.

Q I HAVE just read a magazine article that says that there is a tax band of only 10pc for savings income up to £2,710. I wonder how many people know about this?

A THE special tax band for income such as bank or building society interest is not straightforward.

The normal situation for most people is that they have a personal tax allowance of £8,105. This is the amount of income they can have this year before tax is due. Above this, tax starts at 20pc.

Now, you might think that if you have savings income of less than £2,710, it will be taxed only at 10pc. It is not quite this simple, though. If you have non-savings income such as pay or pensions that use up your tax-free £8,105 allowance, and then leave more than £2,710 on top, you do not qualify for the lower 10pc rate at all.

The only people who will get the

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC



lower rate are those who have little or no other income, yet do have savings invested.

Q I THINK I am correct in saying that if you manage to get a job at age 18, then this is when you start paying national insurance contributions. But what of those who go to university and graduate three years later? If they do not get a job until they are 21, do they lose three years' state pension rights?

A WHETHER or not someone has to pay national insurance contributions depends on their age and their earnings. The earnings limit changes frequently.

At present, anyone whose weekly earnings top £146 has to pay. But the starting age has not changed – and it is 16, not 18. So, does going to university until you are 21 mean that you miss out on five years of state pension rights?

Happily, the answer is no, it doesn't.

Until a couple of years ago, men needed 44 years of contributions to qualify for a full pension. Women needed 39 years. Particularly for men, this did make it a close thing.

If you left university at 21 and retired at 65, you would probably fall just short of the necessary 44 years unless you made a voluntary top-up payment. From 2010, though, both men and women can claim a full state pension after just 30 years of contributions.

Q I HAVE a pension plan and I would like to know if I can take all the money out before I am 65. I will soon be 59 and am unemployed.

A YOU can draw your pension now, but you cannot simply take the whole of the plan proceeds as a lump sum.

You can do this only once you have reached 60, and then only if the amount is trivial. You would need to check with the company that provides the plan, but it is likely that it will fall under government rules saying you can take the cash only if it is under £2,000.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

Equality of the sexes a high price to pay for all

You need to act now to benefit from lower insurance premiums ahead of new EU law. **ADAM AIKEN** reports

THERE are only about 60 days until new EU rules on insurance premiums kick in, with the possibility that millions of people will be charged more even though their individual circumstances will not have changed.

A directive banning insurers from taking your gender into account when calculating premiums comes into force just before Christmas, with likely implications for both sexes.

It may be the difference between existing prices for men and women will be levelled out, creating as many winners as losers. But what is certain is many people who currently enjoy competitive products by dint of their gender will find themselves paying more – or receiving less.

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) made the ruling in March last year to a cacophony of complaints, with insurers making the point it was accepted practice to take into account all kinds of risk factors when calculating premiums.

But the protests fell on deaf ears, and the gender directive will come into force on December 21.

It will affect all sorts of insurance policies, including life insurance, motor insurance and pensions.

LIFE INSURANCE

The price difference between genders seems to have been maintained in the run-up to December, with women still able to buy much cheaper life insurance premiums.

But experts are warning women need to get their skates on if they want to continue to benefit from these discounts. Statistically, women live longer than men, so they have traditionally have paid less for life.

Matt Lloyd, at Confused.com, said: "How much you pay for life insurance at the moment is based on a number of factors specific to you: such as your age, your health and your sex. However, the EU [legislation] will prevent insurers from taking gender into account when they provide you with a price."

Money-minder.com, a life and protection comparison website, said women planning to take out life insurance in the next few months should consider arranging at least some of their cover early so they can lock in at the lower pricing before insurers are forced to equalise the premiums between both sexes.

Simply having made an application for cover by the cut-off date of December 21 might not be sufficient. Many insurers will require applicants to be fully underwritten and to have



accepted terms by then, rather than having just applied.

"The fact is it can take three or four weeks to go through full underwriting if the insurer requires you to have a medical examination or needs extra information from your doctor, so women should have their applications well under way in November in order to lock in at these lower prices before December 21," said Money-minder's Ray Black.

"Whatever premium you agree now, if it's a guaranteed premium and you've been underwritten and accepted by the insurer, you'll pay that premium throughout the entire term of the policy, and the saving over a 20 or 25-year term could be thousands of pounds."

MOTOR INSURANCE

Tiger.co.uk, a price-comparison site that monitors the market on a monthly basis, said recently that motor insurance premiums had fallen to a two-year low, with a drop of 8pc over the past six months. But the price difference for men and women remains for now, with research by Moneysupermarket.com – another price-comparison service – finding that a man pays £111 a year more on average than a woman does.

"Gender has always been a critical differentiator when pricing insurance premiums, with male motorists across the board bearing the brunt of a 'boy racer' reputation," said Kevin Pratt, an insurance expert at Money-supermarket.

"The ECJ ruling will mean insurers re-evaluate the way in which they set their prices. Premiums for female drivers are particularly competitive at the moment, so anyone whose insurance is coming up for renewal this autumn should make the most of

the situation by shopping around now and securing a good deal."

Scott Kelly, at Gocompare.com, said women drivers could face premium increases of between £300 and £2,000.

"The introduction of unisex rates is likely to have a sudden and dramatic impact, as insurers seem to be holding off until the last minute," he said.

PENSIONS

People looking to buy annuities will be well aware of the poor deals on offer at the moment.

Rising life expectancy and low returns on investments mean that annuity rates – the 'income for life' people buy with the money they have saved during their careers – are nearer 6pc than the 16pc they were in the 1990s. (An annuity rate of 6pc means you get £6,000 a year income for every £100,000 you have saved.)

But things could get even worse for many people approaching retirement, because the EU's 'gender-neutral' rules will also apply to annuities.

After all, annuities are sold by insurance companies, which base their payments on their best guess of your life expectancy. It is a sort of insurance policy in reverse, and therefore subject to the EU directive.

Because women live longer than men, insurers can afford to pay men a little more each month at the moment, as they are likely to be claiming their pensions for a shorter period. That means it will be men who will lose out from December 21.

Scott Mullen, of My Pension Expert, said: "With rates at historic lows anyway, male retirees should get a move on with their annuity purchases, and try to get them bought prior to the rates changing."

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Was £199pp

Sale Price £189pp

Quote XN11-KOS

Friday 30 November, 2012

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without Good News Holidays annual Warner Christmas Party Extravaganza.

Our private party break – for over 40s only – will be the usual blend of fun and festivities along with great food and entertainment.

Norton Grange Resort - nicely located by the sea at Yarmouth, Isle of Wight - will be decked out for the Festive season.

Mulled wine and mince pies will be served on arrival and, during

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Warner Leisure Hotels

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Queen Tribute

Free Car Ferry worth £40

Several Singles available no supp't

your stay, you will enjoy great entertainment including Queen tribute band Majesty, comedy vocalist Ian Larkin and much more.

INCLUDED:

- Free Bar from 6pm to 11pm every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft

drinks & mixers

- Car ferry crossing worth £40

• Full Entertainment & Activities programme

- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts

• 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrades available

Isle of Wight Carry on New Year Party

For over 40s only

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Hotel

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board PLUS Free Bar**

Was £239pp

Sale Price £229pp

Quote BX1-KOS

Friday 11 January, 2013

Join us for a party that extends the New Year festivities – for over 40s only. This year's party at Warner Bembridge was a big hit with our guests, many described it as their best party break ever! Next year we're back at Bembridge, our favourite Warner hotel, on the seafront on the Isle of Wight.

Our weekend break includes a gala New Year's Eve party – complete with countdown to midnight and Big Ben striking in the New Year. And, to help the party go with a swing, we've included Free Drinks every day.

You're also assured of Warner's quality hallmark. Enjoy great food – breakfast AND dinner every day in the recently refurbished restaurant – and entertainment

In association with
Warner Leisure Hotels

Happy New Year!

SAVE £20 PER COUPLE*

£10pp deposit

Free Car Ferry worth £40

Free Drinks

every evening. Bembridge also has a full range of leisure facilities including, a fully-equipped gym and indoor swimming pool.

INCLUDED:

- Free Bar from 6pm to midnight every night for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Full entertainment & activities programme
- 3 nights en-suite hotel accommodation – upgrades

available

- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- Car ferry crossing worth £40

Come Dancing Party

Enjoy ballroom and latin dancing? We're running our popular Come Dancing Party alongside the Carry on New Year Party - add social dancing, dance tuition, top dancers in cabaret, a Gala Ball, reserved seating and much more for just **£20pp** extra

Showtime Extravaganza Christmas Party

For over 40s only

Mill Rythe Holiday Village

**Self drive, 3 nights, half
board PLUS 99p Bar**

Was £159pp

Sale Price £149pp

Quote XM11-KOS

Friday 23 November, 2012

Join us for a fun-packed private Christmas Party - for over 40s only - at Mill Rythe Holiday Village on Hayling Island, near Portsmouth. Enjoy 99p drinks and a full programme of entertainment including afternoon matinee shows.

ENTERTAINMENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Let's Hang On - the world's no.1 tribute to Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons**
- **Jeff Hooper's Big Band - the Strictly Come Dancing tour band for the last 2 seasons**
- **The Dagenham Girl Pipers**
- **Songs from the Disney Songbook**

Over 40s only

99p Drinks

SAVE £20 PER COUPLE*

- **Tribute to Abba**

- **Sisters of Swing**

- **The Vera Lynn Story.**

Leisure facilities at Mill Rythe include an indoor swimming pool, all weather bowls and more. Standard chalets are roomy and comfortable, offering en-suite bathroom with colour TV, tea and

coffee making facilities - upgrades available.

INCLUDED: 99p Bar 6pm to 11pm every evening - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • Full Variety Entertainment programme • 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts • 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrades available.

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Escorted Rail to River Cruise

4 days all-inclusive

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1 & 4 December, 2012

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On our journey to join the cruise in Belgium we experience the thrill and convenience of European rail travel with a total journey time of less than 3 hours each way.

We then cruise along peaceful Belgian waterways from town to town, staying overnight at each.

SAVE £200 PER COUPLE*

Refurbished in 2010, the ms Princess accommodates just 100 guests in comfort and style. There is a cosy lounge-bar and restaurant, all with panoramic views.

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CONTACT US...



If you have a business story or any news you think we should be covering in this section, reporter **Nick Ames** would like to hear from you. You can phone him on **01303 817181**, or alternatively email **nick.ames@archant.co.uk**.

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Creative Foundation provides inspiration

In recent years, news on the business front has often been of the downbeat variety. But this week we are happy to report that the cultural regeneration of Folkestone has been hailed as a blueprint for further development in the east of the county, while the north is in line for a funding boost. So it seems the Government and investors alike appreciate that Kent's business community has remained positive and forward-thinking even during the worst days of the economic downturn. Maybe, just maybe, things are turning round, reports **Nick Ames**.

THE arts-led regeneration of Folkestone has been held up as a model of what can be achieved in those areas of east Kent earmarked for economic revival.

Shepway, Thanet, Dover and Canterbury will receive cash from the Government's Regional Growth Fund – which is offering £30 million in loans to businesses that want to expand in the areas or move there and £5 million for improvements in transport infrastructure.

Its aim is to create 5,000 jobs and runs alongside the Grow For It campaign, which is aimed at marketing east Kent to the world. It is administered by Kent County Council with the object of boosting the economic prospects of an area that was badly hit by the loss of more than 1,000 jobs when the Pfizer plant closed.

And the changing fortunes of some of Folkestone's most deprived areas can act as a catalyst and inspiration for neighbouring towns, says politician Damian Collins.

The Folkestone and Hythe MP paid a visit to the regeneration project run under the auspices of the Creative Foundation, which backs arts-related businesses by renovating properties, providing business back-up and charging affordable rents.

Its guiding light is businessman and philanthropist Roger de Haan, who sold the Saga holiday company, which was founded by his father.

"Grow For It is important as it is the first time we have seen a dedicated campaign promoting east Kent as a place to do business," said Collins.

"But you have to bang a drum and let people know it's there – especially business people who might be looking to move into the area from elsewhere – and Folkestone shows what can be achieved.

"As well as its arts-related businesses, the town has attracted companies involved in such things as animation and it could be a real hub for those working in digital media, in such things as video-gaming."



LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL: The Old High Street is emerging from gloom

The Creative Foundation is based in an area that was previously the most neglected and run-down part of the once-fashionable seaside resort.

It has so far restored 90 buildings and has an 84 per cent occupancy rate for its properties. Since November 2011 it has seen a 14 per cent increase in rental income.

Its ethos fits perfectly with Grow For It, which wants to promote industries involved in green technologies, tourism and scientific research.

Andrew Park is director and founder of Cognitive Media, an animation and design company that works mainly on business presentations.

He feels the Creative Foundation project shows how companies associated more with fashionable parts of London can benefit by relocating to places not normally on the 'trendy' radar.

"Folkestone is a burgeoning place for creative businesses," he said. "I started on my own five years ago and now there are 10 people working here. I could not

have done that working in London merely because of the costs of the overheads.

"I've met some really talented people here – editors, writers and the like – and our ethos is to employ locally so that the town and its people all benefit.

"As we expand we want to attract prop-builders, set-designers and camera operators. We even have plans to create an animation school."

Among the companies to have made a success of a move to Folkestone is Arc Creative Design, which supplies information panels to tourist and heritage attractions across the UK.

The company is made up of a number of people who each worked from home but banded together to open an office along the town's Tontine Street, which, along with The Old High Street is the hub of Creative Foundation activities.

A few months after moving in, it landed a £120,000 contract with Natural England, which will rise to £192,000 over two years. According to



Pictures: PAUL JERRATT

BLUEPRINT: Alistair Upton is still excited about Folkestone's regeneration efforts

the directors, acquiring the office "made sure the business was taken far more seriously".

One of the centrepieces of the regeneration project is Quarterhouse – home to comedy and music performances – while the Triennial arts festival and book festival both attract leading names.

Another big success is Rocksalt, a restaurant along the quayside with stunning views across the harbour. One of the most talked-about new eateries in England, it is run by Mark Sargeant, who is a former head chef at Gordon Ramsay's Michelin-starred restaurant at Claridge's, which specialises in local produce.

Two of the major attractions for companies looking to invest in east Kent are its communications and property prices. Creative Foundation-backed businesses say rents are about a quarter of those charged in places such as Shoreditch, which is one of London's emerging growth points for arts, culture and media.

Lower house prices and immediate access to the countryside and beaches are also attractive, especially to professionals with young families, while journey times from Folkestone to central London are less than an hour on the high-speed train. Part of the money available to promote east Kent growth is to be used to speed up journeys between Thanet and London.

Alistair Upton is CEO of the Creative Foundation and thinks Folkestone provides a blueprint for regeneration.

"There is a whole level of energy and excitement at this point in its development," he said. "Folkestone represents great value for money on both a personal and corporate level."

The overall investment drive for east Kent will run over three years and county council leader Paul Carter said the campaign would "wake up the world" to the area's potential.

"East Kent is unique and has vast potential to grow its economy," he said.

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Is £20 million cash injection the answer for north Kent?

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

BUSINESSES in the Thames Gateway are in line to receive £20 million to support new investment and jobs in Dartford, Gravesham, Medway and Swale.

Ministers announced that Tiger – or Thames Gateway Innovation, Growth and Enterprise – is one of 130 schemes nationally to receive money from the Government's £2.4 billion Regional Growth Fund.

The scheme is set to be up and running by April next year. It will offer low-interest loans to businesses investing in new products and services that will create long-term job opportunities; it has the aim of unlocking additional private-sector funding.

There have been two previous rounds of RGF funding in the county. A total of £35m was made available for Expansion East Kent, which will assist in business growth and job creation. Also, £5m has been allocated for rail improvements between Ashford and Ramsgate.

Paul Carter, leader of Kent County Council, said: "Tiger is a great opportunity for businesses with the appetite for investment and growth. Business will be the backbone of north Kent's economic recovery – and Tiger will help to unlock its potential."



NEW FUNDING OPTION: Sheerness is one of the areas that could benefit from the potential investment cash

The new scheme has been secured after a bid to the Regional Growth Fund by the Thames Gateway Kent Partnership, with the support of local businesses.

The news has been greeted with a show of confidence in the area and council leaders say it will be a huge boost to both investment and job creation.

Rob Bennett, chairman of Thames Gateway Kent Partnership, said: "Government backing for Tiger is a huge vote of confidence in the Thames Gateway – one of the UK's most important economic-growth areas. Coming on top of recent investment in

transport and infrastructure, it's another reason the Gateway is a great place to set up and grow a business."

As well as the Kent side of the Thames, the fund will also be available to businesses in Thurrock, Essex. It is also the latest example of money to boost business opportunities in Medway and Swale.

Andrew Bowles, leader of Swale Borough Council, said: "Swale is a great place to invest or to expand an existing business. This fund is brilliant news and will offer financial help to businesses that want to take advantage of our excellent location, facilities and workforce."

Rodney Chambers, leader of Medway Council, had a similar message: "This is a significant endorsement from the Government of our approach to regeneration and it clearly shows we continue to be a place where businesses are welcome and can grow with confidence."

"We look forward to working across north Kent to help as many businesses as possible benefit from this funding so that it creates more jobs in the shortest possible time."

Work is under way to determine the details of how the scheme will operate and how businesses will be able to apply.



HOME-BUYING PROCESS

Award proves commitment to standards

GIRLINGS Solicitors has secured membership of the Law Society's Conveyancing Quality Scheme – the mark of excellence for the home-buying process.

Law Society president Lucy Scott-Moncrieff said that the Law Society introduced CQS to promote high standards in the world of home-buying.

It has established itself as the quality mark of the home-buying sector and enables consumers to identify practices that provide a quality residential conveyancing service.

Ian Burrow, head of the Girlings residential conveyancing department, said: "Girlings is delighted to have secured CQS status."

"Buying and selling a home can be a stressful time. Choosing a solicitor to help in that process just got easier. By looking for a CQS firm like Girlings Solicitors, the public can seek out a firm that has proved its commitment to quality."

"The overall beneficiaries will be clients who use Girlings Solicitors when buying a home. They will receive a reliable, efficient service as recognised by the CQS standard."

The scheme requires practices to undergo a strict assessment, compulsory training, self-reporting, random audits and annual reviews to maintain CQS status.

The new saw that will help group exploit last source of quality rag



A £100,000 investment in a precision saw at a Kent quarry will enable it to exploit the last remaining source of high-quality Kentish ragstone.

The specialist saw installed at Hermitage Quarry, near Maidstone, will allow operators to cut stone on site to specified sizes for stonemasons.

With a three-metre diameter blade, the Van Voorden Apollo 6 primary saw has been installed by Gallagher Group and enables the company to offer 'sawn six-sided' and 'dimensional slab' Kentish ragstone.

After cutting the ragstone to the specified sizes, any off-cuts of stone are recycled and crushed.

The high-quality stone has been used for construction since Roman times. It is still used in the conservation and restoration of

MEETING DEMAND: The saw means that stone can be cut on site and any left-over materials can be put to other uses

churches, historic buildings and bridges and in the construction of new structures such as homes, supermarkets and walls in conservation areas.

Nick Yandle, chief executive of Gallagher Group, a building, civil engineering, aggregates and property-development company, said: "We are now the only source of quality Kentish ragstone. Undertaking the primary sawing on site reduces transport costs, cuts down waste management at the stonemasons' works and enables the off-cuts to be recycled into aggregate."

"This helps reduce the cost of building stone and provide a more comprehensive service to our customers while also boosting our environmental performance."

"Kentish ragstone has been used for more than 2,000 years as an attractive and functional building stone for many buildings across London and the South East. There is still a continuing and strong demand for the stone."

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Training, courses and careers

Driving school is launched by MidKent College

OFFICIALS say that a new driving school offering lessons at £17 per hour is going down a storm with staff and students at MidKent College.

Officially launched last week, the college says the new venture aims to help learner motorists struggling to overcome rising fuel and insurance costs to get behind the wheel.

Two cars carrying the MidKent College Driving School logo – a Ford Focus and Hyundai i10 – were parked outside the Medway Campus for the launch event while instructors handed out fliers to staff and students.

The Maidstone Campus launch took place this week.

Programme administrator Matt Brown said: "It's very expensive to run a vehicle these days so it's no surprise our super-value lessons are attracting such a great deal of interest.

"We handed out hundreds of fliers and have received lots of expressions of interest already, so we're confident this new venture will be a great success.

"We want people to continue to enjoy coming to college, which is why it is such a high priority to find new ways to improve the student experience."

Non-staff and students can also sign up to lessons through MidKent College Driving School, but at the higher price of £21 per hour.

The new business has been set up in partnership with Medway-based TopClass, whose instructors will carry out the training.

TopClass manager Tim Hunt said: "We're delighted to be working with MidKent College on this exciting new venture.

"It's fantastic that the students will benefit in this way and be taught the correct, safest way to drive on our roads."

Forklift training is a female first for apprentice Alex

SIXTEEN-year-old Alex Blake from Hoo, near Rochester, has got her career off to a flying start as the only female apprenticeship at material handling company, Linde.

Alex was one of 18 new recruits selected from across the UK to join the company to begin training as a forklift truck engineer. She will be employed by Linde MH South East Ltd and be based at its site at the Port of Sheerness.

She beat off competition from 100 applicants and now works at Linde, with a day each week and block release at MidKent College.

Linde introduced the Fork Lift Truck Association approved apprenticeship scheme in 2011 as part of an industry push towards attracting younger people into the industry.

Alex joins Linde's second intake of apprentices and she will become a fully qualified forklift truck engineer at the end of the course. Alex is the only female to join the company as an apprentice.

Speaking about her apprenticeship, Alex said: "I wanted to join the apprenticeship scheme to learn about forklift trucks and learn new things. Eventually I'd like to become a qualified mechanic or engineer so this is a great start for me."

The programme consists of providing vocational and technical related training for the apprentices with a focus on commercial awareness.

£1m to help people find a job and stay in work

A £1 million investment in jobs and more apprenticeship opportunities for people in Medway have been announced by the council.

Medway Council has launched a project that will see £1m invested in helping long-term unemployed people hold down jobs in Medway over the next three years.

The European project, IM-PRESS, is funded by the European Regional Development Fund and cash from central government, and helps people who have found a job, stay in work.

This includes one-to-one job coaches and access to NVQ training to help with career progression.

Medway Council's portfolio holder for strategic development and economic growth, Cllr Jane Chitty, also announced a further commitment to apprentices in Medway, with plans to subsidise 20 apprenticeships in partnership with Jobcentre Plus in the next three months.

The council will team up with Jobcentre Plus to offer 20 people, who have been unemployed for between three to



WORK: Cllr Chitty and apprentices at the Construction Expo 2012 at the Historic Dockyard Chatham

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817000.

nine months, an apprenticeship.

Cllr Chitty said: "We have once again managed to lever in a significant amount of money to plough back into our economy here in Medway, to help hundreds of people not only find

work, but also stay in work.

"We already have a range of successful measures to help people find work or training and what's crucial about this new project is it means we are doing what we can to sustain this – helping people find jobs that they can develop in as professionals."

Partnership manager for Medway

Jobcentre Plus Sue Harrison said: "This new partnership between the council and Jobcentre Plus to give jobseekers the chance to train through an apprenticeship will not only entice businesses, with the potential of a subsidy, but also help more people take their first steps to a future career."

University says graduate interns will be a business boost for companies

BUSINESSES in Kent and Medway are set to benefit from a new internship programme being launched at the University of Greenwich.

The programme, aimed primarily at small and medium-sized companies, will match employers with recent graduates for a four-week, full-time internship.

Graduates will have the skills to work on short projects in, for example, market research, marketing, social media, strategy and data analysis.

They will also take part in a series of intensive training days at the university, covering presentation and communication skills, to prepare them for their roles and make sure both parties get the most out of the placement.

Jerry Allen from the university's Business School, who is leading the Graduate Internship scheme, says: "Many employers like to 'try before they buy' and this is a perfect way for graduates to put themselves in the shop

window. At the same time, we are boosting the economy by offering an injection of graduate level skills to businesses, so we're giving something back to the community as well.

"The internship scheme will also be helping our graduates gain a vital advantage in the jobs market, at a time when getting on the first rung of the ladder has rarely been more difficult.

"It should prove to be a win-win situation for employers and graduates alike.

"In an immensely competitive job market, the experience our graduates will have during their internships could make all the difference when it comes to landing that all-important first position.

"They will be developing their commercial awareness and acumen in a real business environment, undertaking strategic, and often demanding, work that will require them to complete tasks in a tight timeframe.

"The experience will enhance their CVs and

also their personal and business skills."

The University of Greenwich's campuses include the shared Medway campus at Chatham Maritime, which trains students in science, engineering, technology, healthcare and business programmes.

The graduate internship scheme is open to all Greenwich graduates.

Businesses taking part will include those in the IT, software, security, training and voluntary sectors, and direct approaches from firms are welcome.

Mr Allen added: "A high-quality internship will distinguish those taking part from other graduates, and give them a priceless insight into how a business operates in the real world.

"We know that employers really value this, and this experience will make our graduates stand out."

The internships will start in early January next year.

Schools & education

sponsored by **KENT ADULT EDUCATION**

EastEnders masterclass for would-be TV directors

AN acting masterclass by an EastEnders director has been a major success for media students.

It was run by TV director Steve Finn, who is usually found working in Albert Square. He even blew up the Sun Hill police station.

He ran the session for students at the University for the Creative Arts to give them a taste of what would be expected from them in the real world of acting.

Mr Finn has worked on some of Britain's most famous and established shows, and is keen to keep the supply of employable young actors going so he agreed to help the first year broadcast media students at the Maidstone TV Studios where the course is based.

Over his 30-year career, Mr Finn has directed hundreds of episodes of Casualty, Holby City, Brookside and The Bill, where he famously blew up Sun Hill police station, but he is best-known for his work on EastEnders which he has directed for the past 13 years.

His masterclass focused on how to get a performance out of every kind of actor and how scenes can be directed in different ways.

He said: "Coming here and teaching these very keen students the art of directing actors has been



ALBERT SQUARE: EastEnders director Steve Finn

a great experience for me. Having a course based in working studios like this is a great starting point for their careers in the industry."

Student Neil Morris was delighted to take part. He said: "Having first-hand tuition from a working professional like Steve is just brilliant. He's doing the job I want, so to hear from him personally has been mind blowing."

And Simon Welsford, senior lecturer for broadcast media, added: "Having a director of Steve's calibre and experience come into our course is a great coup and again highlights the unique industry links that our course has."

"The students really benefited from his unique industry insight and learned a great deal. They, of course, also loved hearing all of the stories Steve had from the EastEnders set."

Music classes as easy as ABC

YOUNG children are pioneering an award-winning, innovative and new music programme introduced by Kent Music.

Kindermusik International's ABC Music & Me curriculum helps children of all ages progress in and out of school by developing literacy, language, cognitive, physical, social and emotional development.

Education charity Kent Music started running the Kindermusik Pilot for Early Years Foundation Stage in schools across Kent in September.

Kent Music chief executive Peter Bolton said: "ABC Music & Me is designed in such a way that it enhances children's development in all areas of learning."

"It also gives teachers and parents the resources to support this learning inside and outside of school."

Teachers who want to know more about the Kindermusik Pilot, or to arrange a meeting or workshop in a school, can contact Felicity Vinall on 01622 358422 or email fvinall@kent-music.com.

Students use human rights project to prepare for their English GCSE exams

YEAR 9 English students at the Folkestone Academy have been using the work of Amnesty International as a background for GCSE English exam preparation.

In a bid to find new ways to engage with all forms of writing, reading, speaking and listening, students have been exploring the complex subject of human rights.

Pupils were given the opportunity to set up their own Academy Amnesty Student Group to raise awareness of the human rights campaign within the academy.

Their first activity was to

lead a school assembly to highlight human rights issues and the work that Amnesty do. Following on from this they were interviewed on community radio station 105.9 Academy FM Folkestone.

Michelle Hill, English teacher and organiser of the Academy Amnesty Student Group, said: "With Year 9 English students we like to expand their knowledge of worldwide issues, while helping them to learn skills essential to their English GCSE course."

"I encourage the student group to consider how they

can support causes they feel strongly about through writing letters, designing posters and organising protests and fundraising events."

Students also visited Age UK in Folkestone to talk with clients about the Amnesty International posters they had created during English lessons, and more generally about their work on human rights.

English teacher Lorna Kenny said: "It was lovely to see our students interacting so enthusiastically with the older men and women in the centre. I am very proud of them."



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Year 7 entry in September 2013

On Saturday 10th November King's Rochester will be holding an Assessment Morning for entry to Year 7 (11+) in September 2013. Papers will be set in English, Mathematics and Non-Verbal Reasoning but, here at King's, we also consider the child's all-round interests and talents, including Sport and/or Music. Academic, Music and Sports Scholarships are awarded to suitably talented applicants.

The Assessments will take place at King's Rochester Preparatory School, King Edward Road, Rochester, Kent ME1 1UB. Candidates should arrive between 9am – 9.30am and will be free to leave at 12.45pm. Refreshments will be provided during the morning.

For further information and to book a place for your child, please contact our Registrar, Mrs Lynne Davies, on: 01634 888590 or email: admissions@kings-rochester.co.uk.

Other age groups are assessed by arranging a mutually convenient appointment.

Independent education for girls and boys aged 3-18 • Boarding available from 11
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Co-educational, day and boarding school for ages 3-18 years



Senior School Scholarships for September 2013 entry:
11+ Examination for Year 7: Thursday 22nd November

For an informal discussion about the scholarship process and how to apply, please contact Alison Hall by phone 01843 572931 or email ah@slcuk.com

St Lawrence College, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 7AE
www.slcuk.com

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11+ Assessments to be held at King's Rochester Preparatory School on Saturday 10th November 2012 at 9.30am - 12.45pm
To book, contact: Lynne Davies T: 01634 888590 E: admissions@kings-rochester.co.uk www.kings-rochester.co.uk

ST LAWRENCE COLLEGE, RAMSGATE

Top facilities available with scholarships

THE anxious wait is finally over for those families whose children sat the 11+ Kent Test.

The results are now known and if you have a child currently studying in Year 6, whether they have passed the 11+ or not, there is another option open to you. Have you considered looking at St Lawrence College in Ramsgate for the next stage of your child's education?

Year 6 pupils are welcome to sit the school's forthcoming scholarship tests for entry into Year 7 in September 2013.

The scholarship tests take place on Thursday, November 22, when candidates are invited to spend the day at St Lawrence College.

Depending upon the results, up to 50 per cent

off the fees could be awarded. Scholarships are offered for academic, all-rounder, sports and musical disciplines, so whatever your child's strength, there is something to suit.

St Lawrence College was given a glowing report by inspectors from the Independent Schools Inspectorate at the end of last year and they confirmed that "the quality of the teaching throughout the school is excellent" and "the quality of the pupils' personal development is outstanding".

The school was commended for the range of subjects offered and the breadth of extra-curricular activities available. The extensive school grounds contain outstanding sporting

facilities, including an indoor heated swimming pool and a new sports centre housing badminton courts, squash courts, an indoor climbing wall, cricket nets and even state-of-the-art fitness room and dance studio.

September this year saw the opening of a stunning 500-seat in-school theatre to further enhance the school's vibrant dramatic arts and music departments.

If you want to know more about the scholarships available or would like an informal discussion or a visit to St Lawrence College, please phone Alison Hall on 01843 572931 or email her at ah@slcuk.com.

Learn more at www.slcuk.com.



OPTIONS: Pupils can still apply for a scholarship



NEW OPENING: Try Explore Learning in Kent

EXPLORE LEARNING, SOUTHBOROUGH

Boost confidence and skills before exams

PREPARING for the 11+ can be a tricky time for parents who may be unsure about where to turn for help and advice.

Well, parents in Kent now have another option from which to choose as Explore Learning, the popular provider of English and maths tuition for children aged five to 14, has this month opened its new centre in Southborough, near Tunbridge Wells. This is its 66th centre to open nationwide, and the second to open in the county, complementing its Sainsbury's-based centre in Ashford.

Southborough centre director Sarah Stenning said: "We're thrilled to open our new centre in

Southborough and at such a central location where parents can drop in their children at a time that suits them, whether it be after school or at weekends.

"Parents love it not only because they see an improvement in their children's maths and English but also because it encourages them to have fun while learning."

Explore Learning is currently running comprehensive 11+ and entrance-exam courses for youngsters preparing to take their exams next year.

The workshops are taught in small groups once a week and focus on improving verbal and

non-verbal reasoning skills as well as their numeracy and literacy, which comes as standard in all Explore Learning classes.

Tutors take a fun and relaxed approach to teaching, with each lesson including games and activities that help to boost a child's confidence while eliminating anxiety ahead of the exams.

The Explore Learning tutors take the utmost care to ensure that the pupils are ready to tackle the exams with confidence.

For more information, phone the Southborough centre on 01892 731932, email southborough@explorellearning.co.uk or visit www.explorellearning.co.uk.

KING'S ROCHESTER

Scholarships launched to celebrate new sports centre

KING'S Rochester Preparatory School will be holding an assessment morning on Saturday, November 10, for entry to Year 7 in September 2013.

Papers will be set in English, mathematics and non-verbal reasoning, while there will be consideration of all-round interests and talents, including sport and music.

Academic, music and sports scholarships may be awarded to suitable applicants.

King's Rochester has a number of



exciting projects outlined for the academic year ahead.

From the beginning of September, Saturday lessons ceased at the school, with the working week being

restructured to increase the amount of teaching time while fitting into five days, this being more appropriate to modern family life while maintaining the Saturday sporting programme and

LINED UP:

Pupils can look forward to a range of new projects in the academic year ahead

enabling more activities for boarders.

King's is also in the process of establishing a web-based careers network for current and former pupils to help King's pupils stand out to potential employers in the future.

Having recently acquired Stirling Sports Centre from Medway Council, King's will be refurbishing the facilities to provide some of the best school sporting facilities in the South East.

King's Rochester Sports Centre will have nine new outdoor tennis and netball courts, indoor hockey/

badminton/cricket nets, changing rooms, a fitness suite and physio facilities as well as a bar and viewing area. The centre will also be open to the public. Olympic-standard astroturfs are also available to pupils at the adjoining Holcombe Hockey Club.

To celebrate this acquisition, King's is offering up to five sports scholarships for 11+, 13+ and 16+ entry in September 2013. Application forms are available from the registrar, Lynne Davies (phone 01634 888590, email admissions@kings-rochester.co.uk).



WRITE ON: Exciting times for children at school

THE 2012 KENT AND MEDWAY TEST RESULTS

The results are in... but no need to panic

AFTER an anxious wait for parents and children alike, the 11+ results were revealed last week.

For the Kent Test, 5,370 children were found suitable for grammar school out of the 11,451 that sat the test – a 45 per cent success rate.

A total of 1,298 of the successful youngsters live outside the county – a figure similar to recent years and a key factor in pressure on places in the west of county.

This 5,370 will now hope to secure one of 4,545 grammar-school places in Kent for September 2013, meaning 825 will miss out.

For the Medway Test, 2,078 children sat the exams, including those from outside the area, with 923 found suitable for grammar school.

There are 926 selective places available in Medway.

It is now time for parents of children in Year 6 moving up to secondary schools in September 2013 to apply to their local authority, stating their preferred school choices. Those in Kent can list four schools and in Medway, six.

Mike Whiting, county council cabinet member for education, learning and skills, said: "This can be an exciting and challenging time for children and families. I would encourage any families who haven't yet decided which school to apply for, to talk to the primary head-teachers about which schools would be best suited to meeting their child's future educational needs and then visit the secondary schools they are most

interested in before applying."

Eight secondaries in Kent are deemed 'super-selective', whereby they can give priority to children who scored the highest marks in the Kent or Medway Test.

They include Skinners School in Tunbridge Wells, The Judd School in Tonbridge, Tonbridge Grammar School, Rochester Grammar School, Rainham Mark Grammar in Gillingham, Dartford Grammar School for Girls and Simon Langton for Boys in Canterbury.

Download KCC's Admission to Secondary School 2013 booklet at www.kent.gov.uk, or visit <http://bit.ly/WDCtmo> for details of Medway's application process.

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The Big Lottery Fund has awarded a grant to set up a Bio-fuels production unit at HMP Standford Hill as part of Sustainable Sheppey. Training and employing licensed offenders to collect used cooking oil in the community and developing other re-use and recycling projects, the Team Leader will be responsible for quality, technical, logistical and local management issues while working closely with the prison staff. This post is funded for 3 years and is subject to CRB and prison checks. You will need to have a clean driving license. Full training will be given.

Work This Way is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from ex-offenders.

For more information send for an Information Pack to: admin@workthisway.org.uk

www.workthisway.org.uk

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This is no ordinary job, this is a LaplandUK job!

We are looking for happy, enthusiastic and talented people to join the LaplandUK team in Bewl Water and help make 2012 another magical Christmas.

Full and part time jobs available for acting and non-acting roles during our Christmas season November - December 2012.

You must be aged 18 or over by 23 November 2012 to apply.

Good rates of pay and full training offered.

Please apply via the website:

www.laplanduk.co.uk/recruitment

The closing date is 11 November but please apply as early as possible.

Once applications have been reviewed interviews will be held in various locations in the Lamberhurst area for acting and non-acting roles.

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www.deya.co.uk/jobs

Alternatively call us (24 hours) on:

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PART-TIME WEEKEND RECEPTIONISTS/ADMINISTRATORS (Margate)

12 hours per weekend, 6 hours Saturday and 6 Hours Sunday (shifts between 07.00 - 19.00)

Closing date for applications
- 5th November 2012

Qualifications

Maths and English (GCSE or equivalent)
2 years working with the public
Knowledge of Word, IT Skills, Booking Systems
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To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:

Caroline McKeane, Outpatient Administration
Supervisor on 01843 234555 x 62044

For job description and application form please contact:

Mandy Oliver
East Kent Medical Services Ltd

The Spencer Wing

QEOM Hospital

Ramsgate Road

Margate

Kent CT9 4BG

Telephone: 01843 234556

Fax: 01843 296333

E-mail: mandy.oliver@thespencerwing.com

The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer. This position is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check

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Career opportunities at MidKent College

Learning Support Faculty Administrator, full time

Ref: P0612AASB

Salary: £15,891 - £19,464 per annum
(dependent on qualifications and experience) Maidstone Campus

We are looking to appoint a confident individual to provide administration support for the Learning Support team which includes Foundation Learning, ESOL (English for Speakers of other Languages) and the CAST (Curriculum Access Support Team). The successful candidate will have good organisational / administrative skills and have experience working within an office environment. Previous experience of working within education would be an advantage.

Closing date: Friday 2 November 2012, 12 noon

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

Career opportunities at MidKent College**Teaching & Learning Manager for Foundation Learning,
ESOL and Additional Learning Support**

Come and join the team at one of the largest and most successful further and higher education colleges in the South East.

With state-of-the-art campuses in Medway and Maidstone and strong financial health, we are passionate about teaching, learning and the development of our staff.

We are in the final stages of putting together a new team of Teaching & Learning Managers to drive forward a flexible, engaging and enterprising curriculum.

MidKent College has achieved its best ever success rates and is looking for a talented, self-motivated teaching professional with a strong desire to take us to the next level.

The department consists of:

- A Foundation Learning Department that supports students who have specific learning difficulties and/or disabilities or who have been out of education for a variety of reasons.
- An ESOL department.
- An Additional Learning Support team who offer various levels of support to students across college.

The successful applicant will earn a basic salary of £38,169 and can look forward to 35 days annual leave, eligibility to join the teachers' pension scheme and other benefits. If you have a track record of delivering high quality teaching and learning in a relevant specialism, with the skills and ambition to manage a curriculum area successfully and to lead your team to deliver outstanding teaching, learning and assessment, we would welcome your application.

Contact the College to request an application pack or an informal discussion with the relevant Head of Faculty.

Closing date: midday on Thursday 8 November 2012

Tel: 01634 383706 or Email: job.applications@midkent.ac.uk
MidKent College

Westlands School

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF
A member of Swale Academies Trust

LESSON SUPERVISOR

Salary starting at £16,961 rising to £18,656
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(equal to £12,641 - £13,904 depending
on experience)

This post is designed to provide supervision of classes in the absence of the subject teacher or form tutor. The job is not a teaching role but will require good classroom management skills as well as a confident personality, a good presence and excellent communication skills.

Applicants should be well educated, preferably to further education level, and have experience of giving support in the classroom, preferably as a Teaching Assistant, although other qualifications and personal/work experiences will be taken into account.

Employment will start after a one-week paid in-service training course. There will be a six-month probationary period.

8.25am - 3.20pm with 1 hr unpaid breaks, term time only plus 1 staff training day and 5 weeks paid holiday entitlement, pro rata.

Recruitment packs are available from Westlands School or online (www.westlands.org.uk). Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form.

Closing date: **9 November 2012**

Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Contact Details

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461

Email swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk

Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA

Head of School: Mr S Cox MA



Swale Academies Trust Company No 7344732
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Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Higher Education Administrator, fixed term, part time

Salary: £10,384 - £18,066 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Medway Campus

The College is seeking to appoint an experienced administrator to join our team working on the UCAS and Student Loans Company systems. The successful candidate should have experience of working with databases, preferably those mentioned, have a flexible attitude to work, the ability to quickly pick up on new systems and be a good team player.

Closing date: midday on 1 November 2012

Higher Education Learner Voice Coordinator, fixed term, part time

Salary: £15,891 - £19,464 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Medway Campus

The College is seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and ambitious person to help develop systems for enhancing the experience of our Higher Education Learners. The successful candidate would work with the Student Union president and management information teams to develop our methods for engaging our learners. They will need to be energetic, resourceful and a people person as well as having good IT and organisational skills. The College would particularly welcome applications from a recent graduate of a local University or Further Education College.

Closing date: midday on 1 November 2012

Apprentice in Student Welfare, full time, one year contract

Medway Campus

The college is looking to appoint an apprentice on the Business Administration framework within the Student Support department. This is an exciting opportunity if you are confident in communicating with a range of people and have excellent ICT skills. The role requires the ideal candidate to be organised and able to maintain confidentiality, demonstrate excellent customer service, and prioritise the workload, whilst working with empathy for students needing support. The core hours will be 8.30am-5pm Mon - Fri with occasional evening and weekend work. You will undertake a recognised qualification in order to achieve your apprenticeship.

Training allowance: £6,314 per annum plus reward bonus upon successful completion of the NVQ Qualification.

Closing date: midday on 1 November 2012

Youth Worker Apprentices x 2, full time

Refs: P0165, P0166

Medway and Maidstone

We are currently seeking two energetic and professional young people to enhance our youth work offer at the college to provide students with opportunities to build their own skills, develop on and offsite activities and participate in college enrichment opportunities such as sport, Duke of Edinburgh and volunteering.

You will be fully supported through the college Student Support team and day to day mentoring, support and guidance will be with the college Youth Worker and Students' Union. On a day to day basis you will cross all departments in the college to ensure engagement by students and staff.

You will be expected to work across our two main campuses; Medway and Maidstone.

The core hours will be 8.30am-5pm Mon - Fri with occasional evening and weekend work.

You will undertake a recognised Youth Work qualification in order to achieve your apprenticeship.

Training allowance: £6,314 per annum plus reward bonus upon successful completion of the NVQ Qualification.

Closing date: Thursday 8 November

Student Welfare Officer, part time, permanent

20 hours per week / 40 weeks per year

Salary: £24,842 - £31,516 per annum, pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Maidstone Campus

The College is looking to appoint a Part time Student Welfare Officer for our Maidstone campus to enhance our current team. The successful applicant will be a professional lead for Safeguarding and work as a Safeguarding Officer, working with the Designated Child Protection Coordinator. The post-holder will also act as first line support for those who may require referral to the College Counselling service and will support in the administration of the Counselling service. They will also continue to develop, implement and monitor the health and welfare services for students and provide advice, support and information to students regarding safeguarding and welfare issues.

We are seeking a highly motivated and organised professional, with a background in the welfare sector, local authority health, social care or specialist projects.

The post holder will work with Personal Tutors, Youth Workers and the Student Union President to actively implement activities designed to improve the health and well-being of students.

Closing date: midday on 8 November 2012

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, high-quality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now require the following staff to complement our team at our home in

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We are delighted to announce that Sharps Bedrooms are opening 2 brand new showrooms in Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells. To complement our fantastic new showrooms, we are looking for the right team members to run our showrooms and demonstrate our amazing products and services whilst delivering industry-leading customer service. The right candidates will have the personality and flair to present our offerings of bespoke bedroom furniture to our customers, inspiring them to make the right choices. This will suit someone with a passion for home improvements and the determination to over-achieve. We will support the right candidate with a healthy remuneration package, including uncapped commissions and full training on our products and services.

If this is the kind of job you would thrive in then please contact Rachal immediately on 07880856157 or e-mail your c.v. to us at gill.pangborn@sharps-mail.co.uk



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to work in our wonderful new Tunbridge Wells shop!

We invest, train and develop our people (75% of our Managers were promoted from Team Members). Our starting rate for Team Members is £7.25 an hour (after 10 days, incl. bonus). Many get £9 an hour and above. The average salary (incl. bonus) for General Managers is £32,000pa. We want you. We have legendary parties.

Recruitment Open Day
at The Royal Wells Hotel, 59 Mount Ephraim,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 8BE
Friday 2nd November 2012 from 10am – 4pm

To place your notice here, call the Kent Public Notice team on

01303 817056



Public Sector

You can also find the latest jobs online: www.jobs24.co.uk/kent

KOSMEDIA

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Fax: 01303 817004

Email: appointments@kosmedia.co.ukOnline: www.jobs24.co.uk/kent

Public Appointments

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Higher Education Administrator, fixed term, part time

Salary: £10,384 - £18,066 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Medway Campus

The College is seeking to appoint an experienced administrator to join our team working on the UCAS and Student Loans Company systems. The successful candidate should have experience of working with databases, preferably those mentioned, have a flexible attitude to work, the ability to quickly pick up on new systems and be a good team player.

Closing date: midday on 1 November 2012

Higher Education Learner Voice Coordinator, fixed term, part time

Salary: £15,891 - £19,464 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Medway Campus

The College is seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and ambitious person to help develop systems for enhancing the experience of our Higher Education Learners. The successful candidate would work with the Student Union president and management information teams to develop our methods for engaging our learners. They will need to be energetic, resourceful and a people person as well as having good IT and organisational skills. The College would particularly welcome applications from a recent graduate of a local University or Further Education College.

Closing date: midday on 1 November 2012

Apprentice in Student Welfare, full time, one year contract

Medway Campus

The college is looking to appoint an apprentice on the Business Administration framework within the Student Support department. This is an exciting opportunity if you are confident in communicating with a range of people and have excellent ICT skills. The role requires the ideal candidate to be organised and able to maintain confidentiality, demonstrate excellent customer service, and prioritise the workload, whilst working with empathy for students needing support.

The core hours will be 8.30am-5pm Mon - Fri with occasional evening and weekend work.

You will undertake a recognised qualification in order to achieve your apprenticeship.

Training allowance: £6,314 per annum plus reward bonus upon successful completion of the NVQ Qualification.

Closing date: midday on 1 November 2012

Student Welfare Officer, part time, permanent

20 hours per week / 40 weeks per year

Salary: £24,842 - £31,516 per annum, pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Maidstone Campus

The College is looking to appoint a Part time Student Welfare Officer for our Maidstone campus to enhance our current team. The successful applicant will be a professional lead for Safeguarding and work as a Safeguarding Officer, working with the Designated Child Protection Coordinator. The post-holder will also act as first line support for those who may require referral to the College Counselling service and will support in the administration of the Counselling service. They will also continue to develop, implement and monitor the health and welfare services for students and provide advice, support and information to students regarding safeguarding and welfare issues.

We are seeking a highly motivated and organised professional, with a background in the welfare sector, local authority health, social care or specialist projects.

The post holder will work with Personal Tutors, Youth Workers and the Student Union President to actively implement activities designed to improve the health and well-being of students.

Closing date: midday on 8 November 2012

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job applications to appointments@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

WELLNESS COACHES REQUIRED

We are a Health & Nutrition company looking for serious people who want to earn £500-£1000+ per month full/part-time working from home. Full training and support available.

01622 671716



Facilities Administrator

Kent Science Park, Sittingbourne, Kent.

£18,000 to £20,000 + Benefits depending on experience
37.5 hours/week

This post is for a highly organised individual to work closely with the Facilities Manager at Kent Science Park, specifically looking after the financial and technical computerised and paper records generated by the management and refurbishment of buildings, equipment and services on the site. In addition you will be liaising with and co-ordinating contractors, tenants and the site maintenance team to ensure work is completed on time and on budget.

You will be a proficient user of Microsoft Outlook, Excel and Word and capable of quickly picking up other computer programs (training will be given). Regular communication with tenants is also a key part of the job so a confident manner when dealing with all levels of tenants and staff is essential.

In the first instance please contact

Christine or Stephen on 01795 411 500

who will email you a detailed job description

All CV's and covering letters to be received by 26th October 2012



"We grow people"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a....

Physiotherapist

to join and enhance our high calibre team

Medway Scale B2 to A - point 32 to 46 (£27,052 to £38,961)

(full time - term time only - pro rata)

Abbey Court School is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery and Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties. We are looking for an enthusiastic and experienced Physiotherapist, with a professional and flexible approach. In essence, somebody with an interest in an educational setting who would like to work in a school committed to enabling pupils to reach their full potential. The postholder will be offered the opportunity to express their creativity, work holistically and demonstrate their strengths whilst undertaking a wide variety of tasks within the post.

Working hours are 37 hours p/w, term time only. The successful candidate will work as part of a larger therapy team, alongside Occupational Therapist, Speech and Language Therapist, Music and Art Therapists. Candidates should hold a relevant Physiotherapy qualification. Benefits include: Local Authority pension scheme, induction training, performance management programme and Continuous Professional Development. Visits to the school are welcomed. Salary is negotiable between top and bottom scales.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory

Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 9.11.12

For an application pack, or to make an appointment to visit, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Business Manager, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

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PLANNING

Planning applications



Notice under Article 6 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
 Notice under Section 87 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
 Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
 Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA/12/00559/FUL: **The Old Farm House, The Drive, Chestfield, CT5 3NS** Erection of new dwelling and erection of a new outbuilding to provide garaging and external storage in the garden of The Old Farmhouse. **Applicant: Mr I Bower Smith** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

CA/12/01567/FUL: **68 The Hill, Littlebourne, CT3 1TB** Loft conversion incorporating increase in ridge height of existing bungalow and insertion of dormer windows and rooflights to front and rear elevations to provide accommodation in the roofspace. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Hughes** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

CA/12/01742/FUL: **First Floor Flat, 2 Douglas Road, Herne Bay, CT6 6AE** Replacement windows to front of dwelling. (Retrospective application). **Applicant: Mrs C Knight** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/01762/FUL: **Flat 4, 26 Tankerton Road, Whitstable, CT5 2AB** Replacement of single-glazed timber windows with double-glazed uPVC windows. **Applicant: Mrs S McGonigle** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/01777/FUL: **Unit 15b, Graham Bell House, Roper Close, Canterbury, CT2 7EP** Change of use from light industrial (Use Class B1) to church meeting room (Use Class D1). (Re-submission). **Applicant: Pastor A Berko** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/01778/FUL: **49 Victoria Street, Whitstable, CT5 1HZ** First-floor rear extension. **Applicant: Mr Page** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/01789/FUL: **Land at Highland Court Farm, Coldharbour Lane, Bekesbourne, CT4 5HW** Use of land for the permanent stationing of 32 workers' caravans, erection of a communal amenities building and a general purpose agricultural building with associated servicing and landscaping works. **Applicant: The Co-operative Group** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/01819/LB: **5-6 St Margaret's Street, Canterbury, CT1 2TP** Construction of a new inner entrance lobby. **Applicant: Mrs Long** Reason: Work to a listed building.

CA/12/01820/FUL: **Nethergong Nurseries, Nethergong Hill, Upstreet, Chislehurst, CT3 4DN** Use of land to provide 30 touring pitches for tents from 1 April until 31 October. (Retrospective). **Applicant: Nethergong Nurseries Ltd** Reason: Major development.

CA/12/01822/TAM: **Land south of railway footbridge, Old Bridge Road, Whitstable.** Installation of telecommunications equipment cabinet. **Applicant: Openreach** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/01823/LB: **Land adjacent to 10 The Street, Kingston, CT4 6JB** New dwelling on land adjacent to 10 The Street. **Applicant: Ms C Wilcox** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/01827/FUL: **Cliff Dene, 11 Marine Parade, Whitstable, CT5 2BQ** Redevelopment of residential institution including partial demolition to create two detached dwellings with associated garages. Revised scheme to incorporate basement at 11 Marine Parade. **Applicant: Mr Thurston** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/01828/CAC: **Cliff Dene, 11 Marine Parade, Whitstable, CT5 2BQ** Partial demolition of residential institution to facilitate redevelopment. **Applicant: Mr Thurston** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.

CA/12/01829/FUL: **Walnut Tree Barn, 1A Walnut Tree Lane, Westbere, CT2 0HG** Removal of log cabin, erection of single-storey extension linked to north-east corner of barn and the replacement of existing window in east elevation with French doors. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs M Horner** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

CA/12/01831/FUL: **Templeman Library, University of Kent, Giles Lane, Canterbury, CT2 7NU** New 5350sqm extension with four storeys above ground and a basement level to west side of existing library. The extension includes a wide variety of reader spaces, collection space including a dedicated special collection and exhibition space, a 250 seat lecture theatre, a versatile teaching floor and a flexible space for innovation and experiment. New 100m² four-storey high entrance atrium to existing south east entrance. New 100m² single-storey entrance lobby to existing north west entrance. Replacement double glazing to existing single glazed windows and curtain walling at existing building facade. **Applicant: University of Kent at Canterbury** Reason: Major development.

CA/12/01832/LB: **Walnut Tree Barn, 1A Walnut Tree Lane, Westbere, CT2 0HG** Removal of log cabin, erection of single-storey extension linked to north-east corner of barn and the replacement of existing window in east elevation with French doors. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs M Horner** Reason: Work to a listed building.

CA/12/01834/LB: **34 St Peters Street, Canterbury, CT1 2BG** New shop front and alteration to roof of existing takeaway shop's extension to obtain sandwich/coffee bar space. **Applicant: Mr Tekagac** Reason: Work to a listed building.

CA/12/01835/FUL: **34 St Peters Street, Canterbury, CT1 2BG** New shop front and alteration to roof of existing takeaway shop's extension to obtain sandwich/coffee bar space. **Applicant: Mr Tekagac** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

CA/12/01841/FUL: **Land adjacent to 1 St Paul's Terrace and rear of 13/15 Church Street St Paul's, Canterbury** Application for a new planning permission to replace planning permission CA/09/01340/FUL for the erection of two double garages and one single garage and re-positioning of barrier equipment in order to extend the time limit for implementation. **Applicant: Lower Bridge St Investments** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

CA/12/01843/FUL: **Gomez, Coldharbour Lane, Bekesbourne, CT4 5HL** Extensions to existing distribution depot. **Applicant: Gomez Distribution Ltd** Reason: Major development.

CA/12/01844/FUL: **Brookside Lodge, Patricbourne Road, Bridge, CT4 5BL** Erection of single-storey extension to rear of dwelling. (Revised scheme). **Applicant: Mr Cramer** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/01845/FUL: **8 The Shrubbery, Barham, CT4 6NU** Erection of a single-storey timber framed orangery to the rear elevation. **Applicant: Mr E Young** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/01848/CAC: **3 Link Road, Tyler Hill, Hackington, CT2 9ND** Demolition of detached dwelling. (Re-submission). **Applicant: Wilkinson Hughes Developments Limited** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.

CA/12/01849/FUL: **3 Link Road, Tyler Hill, Hackington, CT2 9ND** Demolition of dwelling and erection of two detached dwellings and garages with associated alterations to the access and landscaping. (Re-submission). **Applicant: Wilkinson Hughes Developments Limited** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/01855/FUL: **187 Island Wall, Whitstable, CT5 1EE** Two and single-storey extensions to side, including a double garage, single-storey extensions to front and rear, alterations and extensions to the roof to provide second-floor accommodation and other associated alterations. (Revised scheme). **Applicant: Mr King and Mr Doig** Reason: Conservation area.

CA/12/01857/FUL: **68 Canterbury Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5SB** Change of use of the first, second and third floors to form three self-contained residential flats. **Applicant: Mr Renschner** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to development.management@canterbury.gov.uk to arrive on or before **Monday 19 November 2012**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
 Friday 26 October 2012

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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 12 NOVEMBER 2012

SW/12/1203:

Change of use of rear of Unit 1, 75 Britannia House to A5 take-away - Unit 1, 75 Britannia House, High Street, SHEERNESS; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1244:

Variation of condition (1) of SW/11/0866 to extend the time period in which the portable office/restroom may be retained on site to a period of 36 months without the commencement of a B2 use - Four Gun Field, Otterham Quay Lane, UPCHURCH; **REASON 3**

SW/12/1245:

Variation of condition (1) of SW/11/0867 to extend the time period in which the hardstanding, wheel spinner, CCTV cameras and stanchion may be retained on site to a period of 36 months without the commencement of a B2 use - Four Gun Field, Otterham Quay Lane, UPCHURCH; **REASON 3**

SW/12/1247 &

SW/12/1248:

Conversion of redundant timber frame barn to residential use - Green Farm Barn, Stalisfield Green, STALISFIELD; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1264:

Demolition of single storey extension to house and garages. Construction of pitched roof single storey extension, timber framed garage and revised entrance gates - Little Lodge, Church Hill, DODDINGTON; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1280 &

SW/12/1281:

Conversion & extension of existing residential accommodation (North building) to create 3 bedroom dwelling, together with conservation & repair works to historic barn - Colkins Barn, Brenley Lane, BOUGHTON; **REASON 2**

SW/12/1293:

Solid roof over existing conservatory, first floor bedroom extension with pitched roof over bedroom and landing - Springfield, Hogbans Hill, SELLING; **REASON 1**

SW/12/1303:

Advertisement Consent for installation of 1 fascia sign; 1 projecting sign; 1 ATM sign; 2 wall mounted name/information signs - Lloyds TSB Bank PLC, 104 High Street, SHEERNESS; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1326:

Erection of timber climbing frame (retrospective) - Heights of Alma, 1 Alma Street, SHEERNESS; **REASON 1**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman

Head of Planning



THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y12/0884/SH - 58 Sandgate Hill Sandgate Folkestone Kent CT20 3AX - Listed building consent for the replacement of 7 windows

Y12/0940/SH+ - Fountain Stores The Green Saltwood Hythe Kent - Extension to time limit of planning permission Y09/0893/SH for the change of use from office (Class B1) & post office (Class A1) to residential (Class C3).

Y12/0939/SH# - Brookland Church of England Primary School High Street Brookland Romney Marsh Kent - Felling of a Silver Birch situated within a conservation area, followed by the planting of a replacement tree.

Y12/0945/SH+ - 18 Cylinder Road Saltwood Hythe Kent CT21 4QG - Section 73 application for the variation of condition 2 of planning permission 94/0232/SH to allow conversion of garage to living accommodation together with external alterations incorporating the installation of a window in place of the existing garage door

Y12/0890/SH# - Playing Field rear Newchurch Village Hall Newchurch Lane Newchurch Kent - Works to trees situated within a conservation area comprising the felling of a Willow (T2) and 50% reduction in height of a second Willow (T1).

Y12/0918/SH# - Sycamore Farm Millbank Lane Old Romney Kent TN29 9SY - Installation of solar farm comprising erection of solar arrays, inverters, transformers, equipment housing, security fencing, internal tracks & ancillary equipment.

Y12/0802/SH - Shakespeare Centre 145 - 147 Sandgate Road Folkestone Kent CT20 2DA - Change of use of part ground floor retail unit (Class A1) to provide a residential entrance way/foyer and part demolition of existing first floor structure and construction of first and second floor extensions to provide 12 residential apartments.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
 Shepway District Council

To advertise in
 this section
01303 817056



Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/02690/HOUSE

Two Ways Church Close, Brenchley

- Construct a first floor to provide 3 bedrooms with 9 dormer windows. Increase in roof height by no more than 350mm. Replace concrete roof tiles with Kent peg tiles (LB) (CA)

12/02104/LBC

Antiques @ Cranbrook 19 High Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst

- Listed building consent - Repairs to shop front (LB)

12/02263/CAC

1 Lyndhurst Cottages High Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst

- Conservation Area Consent: Removal of section of 2.5m high wall (CA)

12/02709/FUL

Lower Ground Floor Office 2 Mount Ephraim Road, Culverden

- Change of use of lower ground floor from Class B1 (offices) to Class D1 (medical or health services) (CA)

12/02784/HOUSE

Tower Cottage Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst

- Construct pitched roof over existing garage, replacement of existing roof light with conservation roof light and brick garden wall (LB)

12/02785/LBC

Tower Cottage Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst

- Listed Building Consent - Construct pitched roof over existing garage, replacement of existing roof light with conservation roof light and brick garden wall (LB)

12/02756/FUL

Clarks 44 - 46 Calverley Road, Park

- New shopfront (CA)

12/02820/FUL

Ganderhay Camden Park, Park

- Demolition of existing 3 bed house and garage and erection of three storey, five bedroom dwelling and garage (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA)

Affecting A Conservation Area (LB) Affecting A Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications

(MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman

Head of Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 27 October 2012



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NOTICE OF APPLICATION
FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13
OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)
(ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

KCC/SE/0298/2012 - Proposed development at
Dunbrik Household Waste Recycling Centre, Main
Road, Sundridge, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN14 6EP.

Darenth River Ballast Company is applying to the Kent
County Council for planning permission for cessation
of existing green waste composting facility and
transfer station and development of a new transfer
station with replacement household waste recycling
centre and landscape improvements. The proposed
development does not accord with the provisions of
the development plan in force in the area in which the
land to which the application relates is situated.

You may view this application at Sevenoaks District
Council, Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks,
Kent, TN13 1HG.

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND
COUNTRY PLANNING
(DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)
(ENGLAND) ORDER 2010 AND
UNDER THE PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS
AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

KCC/TW/0151/2012 - Proposed development at
Land south of Rolvenden Road, Benenden, Kent,
TN17 4DN.

I give notice that further information has been
received amending and amplifying application
KCC/TW/0151/2012 submitted to the Kent County
Council (as the County Planning Authority) for
planning permission for the erection of new Primary
School building with associated hardcourt play areas,
access, parking and landscaping and re-profiling and
landscaping of residual land to return to pasture. The
further information includes:

a. a reduction in the number of car parking
spaces proposed within the new school car
park by 22% (from 67 to 52) and an increase in
landscape planting provisions;

b. an amended proposed diversion route for
footpath WC327; and

c. additional supporting justification covering
the applicant's site selection process.


The proposed development (as amended and
amplified) does not accord with the provisions of the
Development Plan in force in the area in which the
land to which the application relates is situated. The
proposed development (as amended and amplified)
is close to the Benenden Conservation Area and is
likely to affect its character and/or appearance. It may
also affect the setting of nearby Listed Buildings. The
proposed development (as amended and amplified)
affects three public rights of way (WC325, WC326 and
WC327).

You may view this application at Tunbridge Wells
Borough Council, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge
Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be
viewed on Kent County Council's website at
www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices
in Maidstone at the address below during all
reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email
to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to
Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council,
First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone,
Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this
notice. Please quote the application reference
number and note that comments may be drawn to the
attention of Council Members, the applicant and other
interested persons and may include publishing on the
Borough/District Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 28 October 2012



TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(GENERAL PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT) ORDER 1995

Notice of the Confirmation of a Direction under Article 4(2)
to which Article 6 Applies

Notice is hereby given that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council ("the Authority") has confirmed a
Direction under article 4(2) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development)
Order 1995 to which Article 6 applies ("the Direction").

The Direction applies to development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice
within the area described in the Second Schedule to this Notice.

The effect of the Direction is that permission granted by article 3 of the Town and Country
Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 shall not apply to development of the type
specified in the First Schedule to this Notice and that such development shall not be carried out
within the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice unless planning permission is
granted by the Authority on an application made to the Authority under Part III of the Town and
Country Planning Act 1990.

A copy of the confirmed Direction and of the map defining the area of land covered by it may be
seen at the Council's Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent,
TN1 2AB between the hours of 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (except Thursday 9am to
6.30pm) or 10am to 4pm on Saturday.

The Direction was made by the Authority on 1st May 2012 and came into force in relation to the
area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice on the date on which Notice was first
published. The Direction was confirmed on 22nd October 2012 and remains in force in relation to
the area specified in the 2nd Schedule to this Notice.

First Schedule

The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995

Schedule 2 Part 1 -
Class F

The provision within the curtilage of a dwelling house of a hard surface for any purpose incidental
to the enjoyment of the dwelling house as such, where the hard surface would front a relevant
location.

Schedule 2 Part 2 -
Class A


The erection, construction, maintenance, improvement or alteration of a gate, fence, wall or other
means of enclosure, where the gate, fence, wall or other means of enclosure would front a
relevant location.

Second Schedule

Properties within the area of the St James North Special Identity Area, Royal Tunbridge Wells
Conservation Area to which the Direction relates:

St James Church and 1 to 67 (odd numbers) St James Road
2 to 68 (even numbers) St James Road
60 to 70 (even numbers) Albion Road
19A and 21 Granville Road
1 to 65 (odd numbers) Beulah Road
2 to 60 (even numbers) Beulah Road
52A St James Park
1 to 9 Georgia Place and Church House Ferndale

Paul Cummins
Legal Services Manager
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall
Royal Tunbridge Wells
Kent TN1 1RS
22nd October 2012



THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/12/1809/N - 41, ROYAL STAR ARCADE, HIGH STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1JL - Change of
use to a Health Centre (Class D1). Reason: 2

MA/12/1794/N - THE HERMITAGE, THE STREET, BOXLEY, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 3DR - Ground floor
extensions and other alterations. Reason: 1, 2

MA/12/1068/S - KENT COTTAGE, GRIGG LANE, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9TD - Demolition of
Kent Cottage and associated outbuildings and erection of two detached dwellings with integral garages
and parking spaces. Reason: 9

MA/12/1822/N - 4, LITTLE ORCHARD, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4FF - Extend existing
single semi-detached garage to form double semi-detached garage. Reason: 1, 2

MA/12/1695/S - BRISHING COURT STABLES, BRISHING LANE, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE,
KENT, ME17 4NF - Conversion of stable within the curtilage of the listed building to an independent
residential dwelling. Reason: 1

MA/12/1756/S - THE HOBBIT, MARSHALLS PLACE, AMBER LANE, CHART SUTTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT,
ME17 3SE - Erection of a single storey side extension. Reason: 1

MA/12/1771/S - STONE COTTAGE, WELL STREET, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0EL - An
application for listed building consent for replacement of second floor window. Reason: 3

MA/12/1792/S - CHERRY MOUNT, MALTHOUSE HILL, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0BP - Erection
of a single storey rear extension (Resubmission of MA/12/0796). Reason: 2

MA/12/1827/N - 36, UNION STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1ED - Erection of front porch.
Reason: 1, 2

MA/12/1841/S - MOTORLINE RENAULT, 2, HART STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8RA -
Advertisement consent for the erection of 1(no) internally illuminated 'gateway' sign, 6(no) internally
illuminated totem signs, 2(no) internally illuminated directional signs, 1(no) 'hero' internally illuminated
sign, 7(no) non-illuminated information signs. Reason: 1


MA/12/1842/S - MOTORLINE RENAULT, 2, HART STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8RA -
Advertisement consent for the erection of 7(no) internally illuminated fascia signs. Reason: 1

MA/12/1843/S - MOTORLINE RENAULT, 2, HART STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8RA - Demolition of
existing car dealership and erection of two storey, free-standing restaurant with associated drive-thru, car
parking and associated works. Reason: 1

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday
to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday
9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than 11th November
2012, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King
Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. Dated: 28th October 2012



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MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND
CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR
CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS


An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a
renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue
for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: London Beach Country Hotel, Ashford Road,
Tenterden

Applicant: Pierre Edmonds

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the
address below during normal office hours. Any person may give
notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of
approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of
this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ



KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND
CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR
CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS


An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a
renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue
for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: Shepherd Neame Brewery, 17 Court Street,
Faversham

Applicant: Graham Hukins

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the
address below during normal office hours. Any person may give
notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of
approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of
this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ



Application for a variation of
a premises licence - Licensing Act 2003

Cousins Snooker and Pool Club
Suite D, 19 Lower Bridge Street, Canterbury

Notice is hereby given that Mr Ali Gun, 236 Joyce Avenue,
Edmonton, London, N18 2TS has applied to Canterbury
City Council for a variation of the above premises licence to
sell alcohol, and provide late night refreshment between:
11:00 and 02:00 hours Sunday, Monday, Tuesday &
Thursday
11:00 and 03:00 hours Wednesday, Friday and Saturday for
the above premises.
The premises to close 30 minutes after the end of
permitted hours.

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at
http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/licensing or at Canterbury
City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent. CT1 1YW
by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am
and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to this
application must give notice in writing to the address
shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by
15th November 2012

AB LICENSING SOLUTIONS LTD
PO BOX 499, ASHFORD, TN23 9QB

Application for a Premises Licence -
Licensing Act 2003

The Transport Yard
Brielle Way, Sheerness

Notice is hereby given that Deadline Deliveries Co. Ltd,
18 Heralds Way, South Woodham Ferries, Essex, has
applied to Swale Borough Council for the grant of a
premises licence to sell alcohol, show films, provide live &
recorded music, and late night refreshment between the
hours of 06:00 and 22:00 on any day and 06:00 and 02:00
on not more than 12 occasions per year at the above
premises.



A register of licensing applications can be inspected at
http://www.swale.gov.uk/licensing or at Swale Borough
Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent.
ME10 3HT by appointment with the Licensing Team
between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.


Any person wishing to submit representations to my/our
application must give notice in writing to the address
shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by:
23rd November 2012

AB LICENSING SOLUTIONS LTD, PO BOX 499,
ASHFORD, TN23 9QB

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PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

Application for a variation of
a premises licence - Licensing Act 2003

Cousins Snooker and Pool Club
Suite D, 19 Lower Bridge Street, Canterbury

Notice is hereby given that Mr Ali Gun, 236 Joyce Avenue,
Edmonton, London, N18 2TS has applied to Canterbury
City Council for a variation of the above premises licence to
sell alcohol, and provide late night refreshment between:
11:00 and 02:00 hours Sunday, Monday, Tuesday &
Thursday
11:00 and 03:00 hours Wednesday, Friday and Saturday for
the above premises.
The premises to close 30 minutes after the end of
permitted hours.

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at
http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/licensing or at Canterbury
City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent. CT1 1YW
by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am
and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to this
application must give notice in writing to the address
shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by
15th November 2012

AB LICENSING SOLUTIONS LTD
PO BOX 499, ASHFORD, TN23 9QB

Licensing Act 2003

The Anchor Public House, High Street, Wingham

Notice is hereby given that Mr K. Abbott, of the Anchor
Public House, Wingham, Canterbury has applied to Dover
District Council for a premises licence for these premises.
The effect of the application will be:

1. To remove all existing conditions and replace with
conditions appropriate to the objectives

2. To vary the permitted hours for all licensable activities
on any day subject to conditions

3. To include the rear first floor function room within the
licensed area



A register of licensing applications can be inspected at
http://www.dover.gov.uk/licensing or at Dover District
Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover (01304 872295)
by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am
and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to our
application must give notice in writing to the address
shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by:
15th November 2012

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HIGWAYS - ASHFORD AREA

(LEACON LANE, WESTWELL LEACON, DISTRICT OF ASHFORD) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL acting as the Local Traffic Authority under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984 intends to make the above named Order:

The effect of the proposed named Order (Prohibition of Waiting) will introduce new or to amend existing waiting restrictions in the following lengths of road (in this part of the notice DYL means waiting to be prohibited at all times by double yellow lines.

DISTRICT OF ASHFORD:

Leacon Lane; DYL, that length that extends from a point 13 metres northwest of its junction with the A20 Maidstone Road lay-by to point 13 metres southeast of its junction with the A20 Maidstone Road lay-by.

Leacon Lane; DYL, both sides, that length that extends to a point 5 metres southwest of its junction with the A20 Maidstone Road lay-by.

Full details are contained in the proposed Order, any Orders which will be amended by the proposed Order, a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order and maps indicating the location and effect may be examined at the Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX and at the Kent Highway offices, Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford TN24 8AD during normal office hours.

Anyone wishing to support the new proposal or object to the proposed Order should send the grounds in writing to: The Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 10th December 2012.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, EGERTON, ASHFORD) (WEIGHT RESTRICTION) ORDER 2012 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under Sections 1 and 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to:-

Prohibit any vehicle, laden or unladen with a gross weight which exceeds 7.5 tonnes from using;

Sandway, Coach Road, Egerton House Road, Link Hill Lane, Glebeland, The Street, Stonebridge Green Road, Iden Lane, Field Mill Road, Southfield Lane, Barnfield Road, Hurst Lane, Newlands Road, Park Lane, Hunger Hatch Lane, Burnt Mill Road, Hazeldene Farm Road, Egerton Road from its junction with Field Mill Road to its junction with Vicarage Lane, Plivington Lane from Park Lane to a point 228m north of its junction with Egerton Road.

Access rights will be maintained for all vehicles requiring legitimate access to or from any premises situated on these roads.

A copy of the proposed Order together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of road concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at Kent County Council, Ashford Highway Depot, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD and Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX.

If you wish to support or object to the new proposal you should write to Graeme Lansell, Kent County Council Highways, Unit 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by not later than 18 November 2012.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD) (20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS) AMENDMENT NO. 5 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to amend and introduce new speed limits as per the following Schedule:

Ashford Road, Bethersden	From its junction with Gascoigne Road to a point 190 metres south of its junction with Bull Lane
Ashford Road, High Halden	From a point 125 metres north-east of its junction with The Martins to its junction with Gascoigne Road

50mph

Ashford Road, High Halden	From a point 208 metres north-east of its junction with Little Robhurst to a point 125 metres north-east of its junction with Gascoigne Road
---------------------------	--

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans and a Statement of Reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD.

Any persons wishing to support or object to the proposal should write to Steve Darling, Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD or email tro@kent.gov.uk - quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons, by no later than 19 November 2012.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD) (20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS) AMENDMENT NO. 4 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to introduce a new 50mph speed limit as per the following Schedule:

Ashford Road, Great Chart with Singleton	From a point 92 metres south-west of its junction with Goldwell Lane to its junction with Bethersden Road
Ashford Road, Bethersden	From its junction with Bethersden Road to a point 300 metres east of its junction with Kiln Lane

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans and a Statement of Reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD.

Any persons wishing to support or object to the proposal should write to Steve Darling, Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD or email tro@kent.gov.uk - quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons, by no later than 19 November 2012.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD) (20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS) AMENDMENT NO. 6 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to introduce a new 50mph speed limit as per the following Schedule:

Ashford Road, High Halden	From a point 45 metres south-west of its junction with Shawlands Lane to its junction with Biddenden Road
Ashford Road, Tenterden	From its junction with Biddenden Road to a point 256 metres north of its junction with Pope House Lane
Biddenden Road, High Halden	From its junction with Ashford Road to its junction with Oak Grove Lane
Biddenden Road, Tenterden	From its junction with Oak Grove Lane to a point 195 metres west of its junction with Bugglesden Road.
Tenterden Road, Biddenden	From a point 195 metres west of its junction with Bugglesden Road to a point 210 metres east of its southern junction with Benenden Road

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans and a Statement of Reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD.

Any persons wishing to support or object to the proposal should write to Steve Darling, Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD or email tro@kent.gov.uk - quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons, by no later than 19 November 2012.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, BOROUGH OF ASHFORD) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO. 27) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under section 1, 2, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 47 and 124 and of Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984,

the effect of which would be to introduce new waiting restrictions in the following roads:

Faversham Road, Ashford
Broadhurst Drive, Ashford

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans and a Statement of Reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD.

Any persons wishing to support or object to the proposal should write to Steve Darling, Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD or email tro@kent.gov.uk - quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons, by no later than 19 November 2012.

HIGHWAYS - CANTERBURY AREA

BURGATE LANE, CANTERBURY (RESTRICTIONS ON TRAFFIC & PEDESTRIANS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow the safe use of a mobile crane to replace air-conditioning units on adjacent buildings, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic and pedestrians on Burgate Lane, Canterbury, on or after 29 October 2012 overnight from 11.45 pm through until 6.00 am, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Burgate.

There is no alternative route, as such. Local businesses and residents have been informed.

There will also be some restrictions for traffic and pedestrians into Burgate, at the junction with Burgate Lane.

HARDRES COURT ROAD, UPPER HARDRES (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of safety-related carriageway resurfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hardres Court Road, Upper Hardres, on or after 29 October 2012 for up to 3 days, between 8.00 am and 5.00 pm each day.

The road will be closed from the junction with Bow Hill to a point approximately 20 metres south of the junction with Broxhall Road.

The alternative route is via Hardres Court Road, B2068 Faussett Hill, Street End, Stone Street, Curtis Lane, Bossingham Road, The Street and Hardres Court Road.

MILL LANE & SUMMER HILL, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway surfacing near the A2050 London Road Roundabout, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mill Lane & Summer Hill, Canterbury, on or after 14 November 2012 for up to 2 nights, as shown below.

MILL LANE will be closed at the junction with the A2050 at London Road Roundabout.

The alternative route is via Prioress Road, Miller Avenue and Knight Avenue.

SUMMER HILL will be closed eastbound only at the junction with the A2050 Harbledown Bypass.

The alternative route is via Church Hill, Chartham Hatch Road and A2050 Harbledown Bypass.

The planned closure times are between 8.00 pm through until 5.00 am.

A290 WHITSTABLE ROAD, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install a new Zebra Crossing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on A290 Whitstable Road, Canterbury, on or after 29 October 2012 for up to 5 days.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of 18 & 20, with no through access between Forty Acres Road and Ramsey Close.

The alternative route is via A290 Whitstable Road, St Thomas Hill, Whitstable Road, Rough Common Road, Palmers Cross Hill, A2050 Harbledown Bypass and London Road.

HIGHWAYS - DARTFORD AREA

PRINCES AVENUE, DARTFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Princes Avenue, Dartford, on or after 29th October 2012 for up to 10 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Princes Road.

The alternative route is via Princes Road, Gore Road, Lundale Road, Princes Avenue.

HIGHWAYS - DOVER AREA

MILL LANE, PRESTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mill Lane, Preston, on or after 29 October 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in phases for its entire length (i.e. between the junctions with Longmete Road and The Street.

The alternative route is via Longmete Road and The Street.

SOMERSET ROAD, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Somerset Road, Deal, on or after 15 November 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Telegraph Road.

The alternative route is via Telegraph Road, Hamilton Road, Cornwall Road and Downs Road to Somerset Road.

HIGHWAYS - GRAVESEND AREA

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL HALL ROAD NORTHFLEET (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)

TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

Because of High friction resurfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hall Road Northfleet on or after 3rd November 2012 for up to 9 nights or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from

- 1) A2260 Hall Road Southbound
- 2) A2260 Hall Road Northbound.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with A2260 Hall Road Southbound and A2260 Hall Road Northbound.

The alternative route is via .

- 1) Eastbound on the A2 on the slip continue along the A2 Watling Street to the Tollgate junction (A227) and return Londonbound on the A2 Watling Street to the Pepperhill junction then take the slip road to New barn Roundabout.
- 2) Proceed on the Westbound A2 on the slip road and continue along the A2 Watling Street to Ebbsfleet interchange B259 and return east on the A2 link road to join the northbound carriageway of Hall Road B262/ A2260 at the Pepperhill junction.

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - MAIDSTONE AREA

**FORGE LANE, EAST FARLEIGH
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because it is necessary to install a low voltage cable, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Forge Lane, East Farleigh, on or after 12 November 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Vicarage Lane for approximately 140 metres.

The alternative route is via Vicarage Lane, B2010 Lower Road, Dean Street.

**FRITTENDEN ROAD, STAPLEHURST
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because it is necessary to access the overhead network for BT cabling, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Frittenden Road, Staplehurst, on or after 30 October 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the High Street to Cradducks Lane.

The alternative route is via High Street, Headcorn Road, Cradducks Lane.

**B2010 HIGH STREET, YALDING
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of repairs to the bridge and carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on B2010 High Street, Yalding, on or after 31 October 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at Yalding Bridge.

The alternative route is via B2162 Benover Road/Lees Road/Hampstead Lane, B2015 Maidstone Road/Bow Road, A26 Tonbridge road, B2163 Teston Lane, B2010 Lower Road/Smith's Hill/Yalding Hill.

**SYMONDS LANE, YALDING AND BUSBRIDGE ROAD, LOOSE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of repairs to the bridge, parapet repairs and vegetation clearance, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Symonds Lane, Yalding on or after 29 October 2012 and Busbridge Road, Loose, on or after 30 October 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

Symonds Road will be closed at the bridge and Busbridge Road will be closed at the retaining wall just north of "Aberglaslyn".

The alternative route for Symonds Lane is via Lees Road, Benover Road and for Busbridge Road is via Stockett Lane, Bockingford Lane, Teasaucer Hill, Cripple Street, Loose Road, Rosemount Close, Old Loose Hill, High Banks.

HIGHWAYS - SEVENOAKS AREA

**CROCKENHILL LANE, EYNSFORD, SEVENOAKS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of BT works to provide a new telegraph pole for customer connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Crockenhill Lane, Eynsford, Sevenoaks, on or after 29th October 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction of Eynsford Road and Sparepenny Lane.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Eynsford Road and Sparepenny Lane.

The alternative route is via: Sparepenny Lane, High Street, Dartford Road, London Road Swanley, Wested Lane Swanley.

**HIGH STREET, EDENBRIDGE, SEVENOAKS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to install a new gas supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on High Street, Edenbridge, Sevenoaks, on or after 12th November 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction of High St, Mont St Aignan Way outside no 67.

The alternative route is via Mont St Aignan Way.

**LOCKSKINNERS, CHIDDINGSTONE, SEVENOAKS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of highway repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lockskinners, Chiddingstone, Sevenoaks, on or after 12th November 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Mill Lane and Lockskinners Farm.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junction with Mill Lane to Lockskinners Farm.

The alternative route is via Rywell Road, Wellers Town Road, Chiddingstone Road.

**RIVERSIDE, EYNSFORD, SEVENOAKS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of highway repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Riverside, Eynsford, Sevenoaks, on or after 12th November 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with near ford in river and bridge.

The alternative route is via Sparepenny Lane, High Street or Main Road, Eynsford Road (A225) High Street (A225).

**STONEINGS LANE, KNOCKHOLT, SEVENOAKS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of the installation of a drainage collection system to alleviate ongoing flooding of properties adjacent to Stoneings Lane, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Stoneings Lane, Knockholt, Sevenoaks, on or after 12 November 2012 for up to 10 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside the property known as Stable Barn.

There will be no access for through traffic on Stoneings Lane.

The alternative route is via Stoneings Lane, The Nower, Main Road

HIGHWAYS - SHEPWAY AREA

**ELVINGTON LANE, HAWKINGE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to provide a new water supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Elvington Lane, Hawkinge, on or after 12 November 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Elvington Farm, with access from either direction up to the point of closure.

There will be a one-day closure planned for 12 November for the water connection, between 9.00 am and 4.30 pm.

There will be a further half-day closure within the 5 days to permanently reinstate the road surface.

The alternative route is via Crete Road West and Gibraltar Lane.

**A259 RHEE WALL, OLD ROMNEY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway resurfacing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on A259 Rhee Wall, Old Romney, on or after 13 November 2012 for up to 4 nights, between 7.00 pm and 5.30 am the following morning.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Eighteen Acre Lane and Millbank Lane.

There will be no access between the A2070 and New Romney using the A259, during these closures.

The alternative route is via A259 Rhee Wall, Straight Lane, Brookland By-pass, Rye Road, Guldeford Lane, Folkestone Road, Camber Road, Lydd Road, Jury's Gap Road, Tournay Road, Robin Hood Lane, Harden Road, B2075 Romney Road and A259 Lydd Road.

HIGHWAYS - SWALE AREA

**BANNISTER HILL, BORDEN & CRYALLS LANE,
SITTINGBOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of drainage improvement works to alleviate flooding, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bannister Hill, Borden & Cryalls Lane, Sittingbourne, on or after 29 October 2012, as shown below.

BANNISTER HILL, BORDEN will be closed from 29 October for up to 1 week.

The closure is to the north of the junction with The Rise.

The alternative route is via The Street, Pond Farm Road, Sutton Baron Road, Wrens Road, Heart's Delight and Banister Hill

CRYALLS LANE, SITTINGBOURNE will be closed from 5 November for up to 1 week.

The closure is in the vicinity of Cryalls Farm Cottage

The alternative route is via Wises Lane, A2 London Road, Adelaide Drive and Brisbane Avenue.

**NEWTON ROAD, FAVERSHAM
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway resurfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Newton Road, Faversham, on or after 29 October 2012 for up to 5 days, between 7.00 am and 7.00 pm.

The road will be closed in phases for its entire length, i.e. between the junctions with Station Road and East Street.

The alternative route is via B2041 Station Road, Forbes Road, The Mall, A2 London Road, Canterbury Road, B2040 Love Lane, Whitstable Road and East Street.

**NORTON LANE, NORTON & BUCKLAND (PROHIBITION OF
DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER OCTOBER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of cabling works to provide a new phone connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Norton Lane, Norton, near Faversham, on or after 29 October 2012 for up to 3 days, between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm each day.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with A2 London Road, with no through access.

The alternative route is via A2 London Road and Lewson Street Road.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS,
THE BOROUGH OF SWALE (20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH,
50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS)
AMENDMENT NO. 3 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012**

**NOTICE
THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, THE BOROUGH OF SWALE)
(20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND
DERESTRICTED ROADS)
AMENDMENT NO. 3 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council has made an Order under Sections Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which is to :- Install a new 30mph limit on various roads in Eastling (The Street, Eastling Road, Newham Lane, Kettle Hill Road and Otterden Road) and modify the existing 40mph limit in Eastling. This Order was previously advertised as "The Kent County Council (Various Roads, Eastling) (Speed limit) Order 2012."

A copy of the proposed Order, which comes into operation on 01/11/2012, together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or any instrument made there under, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Orders.

HIGHWAYS - THANET AREA

**ALEXANDRA ROAD, MARGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works requiring the use of a mobile crane, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Alexandra Road, Margate, on or after 14 November 2012 as shown below.

3 closures are planned, each between 8.00 am and 5.00 pm.

The first is planned for 14 November 2012, with the proviso that it can be deferred to one of the following 2 days in the event of adverse weather conditions.

Provisional dates for the other 2 closures are 14 January 2013 and 25 February 2013. Again, these can each be postponed to one of the following 2 days in the event of bad weather.

The closures are in the vicinity of numbers 27-29.

The alternative routes are

Eastbound - via Helena Avenue, Beatrice Road and A254 Ramsgate Road.

Westbound - via A254 Ramsgate Road, B2052 College Road, Tivoli Road and Helena Avenue.

**BUCKINGHAM ROAD, BROADSTAIRS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

To allow access to phone cables in the carriageway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Buckingham Road, Broadstairs, on or after 12 November 2012 for up to 3 nights, between 7.00 pm and 6.00 am.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with York Street.

The alternative route is via John Street, Victoria Parade and Chandos Square.

The One-way Traffic Order will be suspended to allow limited access up to where the road is closed.

**CHANDOS ROAD, BROADSTAIRS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to provide a new gas supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Chandos Road, Broadstairs, on or after 29 October 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of number 3, with no through access between Chandos Square and York Street.

The alternative route is via Chandos Square, Victoria Parade, John Street and York Street.

There will be a suspension of the One-way Traffic Order in respect of Chandos Road, from Chandos Square up to the point of closure, to allow access.

**CHURCH STREET, BROADSTAIRS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

To enable access to phone ducting in the carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Street, Broadstairs, on or after 29 October 2012 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Northdown Road and Albion Road.

The alternative route is via Albion Road, St Peter's Park Road, A255 The Broadway, St Peter's Road, Broadstairs Road and Vicarage Street.

**CLIFFSEND LEVEL CROSSING, RAMSGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cliffsend Level Crossing, Ramsgate, as shown below.

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



HIGHWAYS

The planned closure times are from Saturday 17th November at 2.00 am through to Sunday 18th November at 7.00 pm.

Foads Lane will be closed in the vicinity of the level crossing.

The alternative route is via Cliffs End Road, Sandwich Road, Lord of the Manor Interchange, Canterbury Road West, and Foads Hill.

MONKTON STREET, MONKTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of drainage improvement works to alleviate flooding, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Monkton Street, Monkton, on or after 29 October 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed to the east of the primary school, with no access for through traffic.

The alternative route is via Monkton Street, Willets Hill, A299 Thanet Way and Tothill Street.

HIGHWAYS - TONBRIDGE & MALLING

MILL LANE, TONBRIDGE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to replace a collapsed sewer, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mill Lane, and the One-Way Order on Mill Crescent Tonbridge is suspended on or after 12 November 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Borden to Mill Crescent.

The alternative route is via Mill Crescent.

MILL STREET, EAST MALLING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mill Street, East Malling, on or after 3 November 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between High Street/New Road and Clare Lane.

The alternative route is via Clare Lane, Winterfield Lane, Chapman Way and New Road.

HIGHWAYS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

A264 ASHURST ROAD, SPELDHURST (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing, installation of signs and lines, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on A264 Ashurst Road, Speldhurst, on or after 12 November 2012 for up to 3 nights between 19.00hrs and 07.00hrs or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Manor Court Farm to Stone Cross Farm.

The alternative route is via B2110 Groombridge Hill/Withyham Road/Castlefields, B2026 Edenbridge Road.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CLARMONT ROAD AT TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (ZEBRA CROSSING) ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, intends to install a zebra crossing at the location described in the schedule below.

A plan showing the location of the proposed zebra crossing may be inspected during normal working hours Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX or Kent County Council Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Zebra Crossing you should send the grounds, in writing to Miss Laura Squires, Kent

County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or email MHF@kent.gov.uk by noon on 18th November 2012.

SCHEDULE

Type of Pedestrian Crossing	Location
Zebra	Claremont Road, Tunbridge Wells at a point adjacent to 12 Claremont Road.

A268 HIGH STREET, HAWKHURST (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are being carried out on or near A268 High Street, Hawkhurst, Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic as described below.

The Order will become effective on 12th November 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The date shown is an anticipated start date however actual work dates will be displayed by signage on site 14 days in advance. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the restrictions is stated below.

Schedule

Tunbridge Wells

Road Name:	A268 High Street Hawkhurst
Extent:	A229 Highgate Hill/Cranbrook Road to Fairview
Date:	12th November to 14th November from 1900 - 0000hrs
Diversion:	A229 Highgate Hill, Moor Hill, The Moor, Horns Road, Merriments Lane, A21 London Road, A268 Hawkhurst Road, and A268 High Street, Hawkhurst

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate Carriageway Surfacing works to be undertaken by Kent County Council Highways

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 28th October 2012



PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO

TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH KB9 IN THE PARISH OF MAIDSTONE

PUBLIC FOOTPATH KB9 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath KB9, between Sandy Lane and Sittingbourne Road from the 12th November 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 12th January 2013.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via Sittingbourne Road, Penenden Heath Road and Sandy Lane and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: John Pelham
Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF SWALE

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZS19

IN THE PARISH OF MINSTER ON SEA

PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZS19 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed part of Public Footpath ZS19 between NGR TQ 920 690 and NGR TQ 921 690 from the 15th October 2012. The section of path to be closed is approximately 600 metres south east of the Kingsferry Bridge.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 14 December 2012.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is around site compound on the landward side of the seawall and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michael Ellis
Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE RESTRICTED BYWAY ZSX84

IN THE PARISH OF SHEERNESS

RESTRICTED BYWAY ZSX84, SHEERNESS (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1) AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Restricted Byway ZSX84 between The Fleet (NGR TQ 914 739) and the play area (NGR TQ 914 740) beneath the power cables from the 22nd October 2012.

The route will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 5 November 2012.

The route is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via a path around the north, east and south of the play area and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michael Ellis

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

CYCLE TRACKS ACT 1984

WHITSTABLE - CONVERSION OF PUBLIC FOOTPATH CWX 19 (PART)

WHITSTABLE - CONVERSION OF PUBLIC FOOTPATH CWX 24

CYCLE TRACKS ORDERS 2012

In connection with the conversions of public footpaths CWX19 (part) and CWX24 to Cycle Track, the Kent County Council confirmed the above Orders on 18th October 2012. No objections were received.

The effect of the Cycle Tracks Orders are that the lengths of footpaths to which the Orders relates will become highways which, for the purpose of the Highways Act 1980, are highways maintainable at public expense and over which the public will have a right of way on pedal cycles (other than pedal cycles which are motor vehicles) and a right of way on foot.

The footpaths designated as cycle track by these Orders are as follows:

CWX19 (Part)	That width of that part of the public footpath from Reservior Road to Cromwell Road for a distance of 87metres in a south westerly direction. A minimum of 2.7 metres width is recorded.
CWX 24	That path known locally as Lanes Walk from Tower Parade to Westgate Terrace for a distance of 85 metres in a southerly direction. A width of 3 metres is recorded

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the confirmed orders and the relevant maps can be inspected on Mondays to Fridays at Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW or alternatively on Tuesdays and Fridays at Whitstable Library, 31-33 Oxford St, Whitstable CT5 1DB. A copy of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

The Orders came into force on 18th October 2012, but if a person aggrieved by the Orders wants to question the validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Cycle Tracks Act 1984, or on the ground that any requirement of regulations made under subsection 4 of the Act, has not been complied with in relation to the Orders, he or she may under Section 6 of the Act, within 6 weeks from the 28th October 2012, make an application to the High Court.

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 28th October 2012

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact
Kent Countryside Access Service,
on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess



For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

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To place your legal notices
call **01303 817056** or email **sallie.payne@archant.co.uk**

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

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Women Seeking

Guxs Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.**Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 or call 0906 635 0508****(T&C's below)****BLACK** beautiful female, 5ft 7ins, likes most things in life, seeks special male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396391** ☺**DEBBIE** 50, seeking man, 60 plus with GSOH for fun nights out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396173** ☺**DEBBIE** 47, single parent, likes motorsport, seeking male with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396127** ☺**YOUNG** looking lady, late 50's, medium build, caring, intelligent, seeks kind, caring, intelligent man with GSOH of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398095** ☺**BLACK** African lady, late 30's, no ties, likes country walks, gardening, cinema, seaside, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393272** ☺**5FT** female, brown hair, 39, single mum, seeks caring, dedicated guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397915** ☺**SINGLE** mum, new to Canterbury, 37, attractive, blonde, seeking soul mate, preferably with car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397751** ☺**52YR** old female, single mum of 2, seeking honest, caring, decent man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398991** ☺**SUSIE** young 55, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest guy from Medway towns. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398027** ☺**JOYCE** 82, widowed, seeking man who is fun loving and good humoured for meals out, 60-70's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393067** ☺**FEMALE** seeks Prince Charming, 20-30 to sweep her off her feet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392891** ☺**NICKY** 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398774** ☺**COUNTRY** loving outgoing female, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, genuine, caring, intelligent, seeks honourable, smart, professional male, 68-75 to share laughter and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392899** ☺**ANNETTE** 58, 5ft 1ins, cuddly, affectionate, likes animals, seeks kind, gentleman to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394923** ☺**MIRANDA** early 60's, sociable, friendly, seeking similar N/S solvent, presentable, easygoing male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394843** ☺**RETIRED** teacher, blonde, 5ft 4ins, medium build, youthful, easygoing, likes most things, seeks tall, refined gent for meaningful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397363** ☺**PAT** widowed mid 60's blonde female, loves dancing, happy-go-lucky W/LTM similar aged nice male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389195** ☺**LYN** 59, slim, fair, looking for someone to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397347** ☺**LOUISE** loving, caring, thoughtful lady, likes photography, countryside, animals, seeks mature, N/S, genuine, caring, N/S gent with car to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397239** ☺**BLACK** female, 30, likes animals, swimming, music, singing, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395941** ☺**LUCY** kind caring, honest, fuller figured, blonde, blue eyes, 44, looking for older man, kind, caring and honest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395805** ☺**FOLKESTONE** lady, 58, 5ft 1ins, animal lover, cuddly, affectionate, GSOH, seeks male, 58-63 to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395551** ☺**SUE** 54, fairly slim, blue eyes, brown hair, seeks male, 45-55, N/S, likes football, sports, meals out etc., looking for lasting relationship and cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392803** ☺**SANDRA** outgoing 53, carer, seeks male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390230** ☺**LORRAINE** 51 9ins, medium build, 49, bubbly, looking for male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386401** ☺**CLAUDIA** curvy size 20, Mediterranean, blonde hair, brown eyes, seeks mature male, 40-55 for friendship, companionship and enjoy life together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373611** ☺**LYNETTE** 60, South African, new to area, N/S, sociable, like the outdoors, looking for new friends. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386387** ☺**HAPPY** go lucky lady, seeks tall, honest guy, 50-56 hopefully with a boat. **Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392525** ☺**PAT** 67, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, widow, likes dancing, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390201** ☺**VIVACIOUS** arty, caring female, 63, seeks intelligent, kind, caring, positive male with GSOH to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394651** ☺**45YR** old female, 5ft 5ins, brown hair, cuddly, curvaceous, love animals, music, sports, seeks kind, caring, sincere, mature male, 40 plus with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381319** ☺**FEMALE** 21, brown eyes, loving, looking for male, 20-30 for nights in and loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396057** ☺**INTERESTING** attractive, uncomplicated, intelligent lady, many interests, seeks honourable, kind gent, 68-75 for long term companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392211** ☺**ANNETTE** 58, 5ft 1ins, cuddly, affectionate, N/S, likes a drink, good food, easy-going, GSOH, seeks loving male to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393143** ☺**KENTISH** lady, 50, no longer wishes to make do or mend broken heart, seeks kind gent to form patchwork moments. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392865** ☺**MARGARET** 57, looking for male companionship with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390248** ☺**MARY** 62, fun loving, enjoy most things, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, size 14, lives alone in country, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385189** ☺**48YR** old female, kind, loving, caring, genuine, fun loving, loves music, singing, theatre, holidays, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387797** ☺**FEMALE** looking for male for friendship and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392365** ☺**LISA** tall slim elegant black lady looking for gentleman for company, 50-60yrs. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391394** ☺**BEVERLEY** 33, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male, 40-45 for walks, karaoke and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375217** ☺**BLACK** lady, 52, likes cinema, nights in/out, seeking male, 49-55 to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390925** ☺**SANDRA** 63, likes cuddles, varied interests, W/LTM male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383497** ☺**SUSIE** from Kent, seeking tall honest guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375883** ☺**47YR** old female, 5ft 6ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389413** ☺**WIDOW** 70's, many interests, seeks gent who misses companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396401** ☺**SUE** 53, slim, blue eyes, likes football, animals, seeks N/S male, 45-55 for loving, lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386247** ☺**FEMALE** likes country walks, gardening, animals, seeks male for company, meals out and nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390147** ☺**HAPPY** young looking 71yr old female, likes life, fit, active, seeks male, 60 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393065** ☺**CARING** affectionate female, 64, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, seeks male, 60-70 with GSOH for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384871** ☺**MARY** likes most things, nights out, socialising, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383847** ☺**LONELY** Folkestone lady, 57, 5ft 1ins, medium build, N/S, seeks caring, considerate male for walks by the sea and pubs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371067** ☺**JANET** happy go lucky, young 60s, likes meats out, music, animals, seeks male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391071** ☺**MARY** fun loving brunette, seeking friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382689** ☺**BLONDE** tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384852** ☺**SANDRA** 63, varied interests, cinema, walks, animals, meals out, N/S, social drinker, cuddly, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385315** ☺**BIG** blonde and beautiful 43yr old, GSOH, seeks genuine, honest, loyal, caring male, 40-50 with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390215** ☺**SHARON** 50, widowed, looking for nice gent to take out to theatre, cinema, country walks and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384497** ☺**WANNABEE** stay at home home maker, educated, well built, loving, 54, seeks sincere, loving gent, 58-68 for happy LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391328** ☺**TERRI** young at heart, fit, caring, N/S, 70's, many interests, Taurus, seeks kind, N/S gent, 65-70 with GSOH to share life and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390671** ☺**TRACEY** 46, 5ft 8ins, long hair, fit, slim, seeks honest, reliable, attractive, tall, slim guy for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353575** ☺**VALERIE** looking for genuine male for nights out and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387173** ☺**MAIDSTONE** lady, pretty, petite, late 50's, honest, caring, N/S, loves life and most things, seeks nice guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366501** ☺**JULIE** late 70's, petite, widowed, seeks gent with car and GSOH who loves animals. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379277** ☺**CLARE** 5ft 5ins, looking for soul mate, older man, 45-50's with car to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389133** ☺**FEMALE** 42, understanding, seeks romantic, understanding, outgoing male, 45-50 for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383001** ☺**CHRISTIAN** 60yr old dog owner, likes countryside, culture, seeks likeminded kind man for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384989** ☺**ANNA** 62, seeks guy, 59-65 with an interest in the simple things in life for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 346707** ☺**WENDY** darling, young OAP, seeks Peter Pan to find Neverland, male be N/S, like dogs, have GSOH and be young at heart. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395441** ☺**YOUNG** 54yr old female, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest, caring guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362669** ☺**IYV** May tall, slim, seeking older, generous, kind, caring male, 75-80 for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385505** ☺**CANDY** 42, blonde, blue eyes, GSOH, bubbly, seeks older male, 75 plus, kind, caring and honest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391012** ☺**SUSIE** fit, friendly, looking for someone to love and look after me, preferably, older, N/S male with own car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392537** ☺**LOVELY** lonely lady, fit and active, many interests, seeks N/S fun loving guy with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384951** ☺**63YR** old female, loving, tactile, seeks genuine male, 60-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381863** ☺**HAZEL** blonde, 62, pretty, cuddly, N/S, non drinker, seeks genuine, attractive male, 55-65 for fun and friendship. **Ramsgate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366319** ☺**JO** bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, DVDs, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337** ☺**PAULINE** 38, teacher, easygoing, friendly, likes films, walks, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387358** ☺**FUN** outgoing lady, seeks spontaneous male, 37-60, adventurous, professional, attractive. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363331** ☺**LADY** late 50's, new to area, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378403** ☺**MARIE** solvent, independent, likes meals out, good things in life, GSOH, love pets/children, seeks honest, affectionate male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388574** ☺**SEMI** retired N/S ex dancer, many interests, honest, attractive, GSOH, seeks gent, 65 plus to put spark back into life and be soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378279** ☺**SUE** 58, likes walks, meals out, socialising, seeks large male, 6ft plus for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389135** ☺**LONELY** lady, retired nurse, 68, likes country/western music, nights in/out, GSOH, seeking male of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385835** ☺**BLACK** female, 33, single mum, loving, honest, caring, kind, seeks professional, kind, honest male, 34-44. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387565** ☺**BERYL** retired nurse, Medway area, looking for similar male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384635** ☺**LISA** N/S, easygoing, friendly, bubbly, petite, likes swimming, football, walking, holidays, pubs, seeks male to share interests with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372595** ☺**49YR** old lady, honest, sincere, easygoing, likes a laugh, looking for love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395059** ☺**CARING** genuine single mum seeks male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358719** ☺

INDEPENDENT

52yr old slim, N/S female, likes country walks, swimming, animals, meals/days out, seeks N/S similar aged male for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366099** ☺**LADY** 56, semi disabled, size 18, seeking a caring, loving, honest gent, 50 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365453** ☺**ANITA** 58, green eyes, auburn hair, 5ft 3ins, likes shopping, holidays, cinema, shows, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374745** ☺**PROFESSIONAL** female, late 30's, own business, seeks honest male for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388370** ☺**PAM** nice lady, looking for special male who is genuine with GSOH to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387332** ☺**FEMALE** likes coast walks, shopping, gardening, countryside, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381463** ☺

Men Seeking

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.**Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 (T&C's below)****DAN** 44, fun, seeking nice female to share Sundays and lonely Winter nights with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398425** ☺**YOUNG** toy boy, GSOH, seeks mature, attractive, curvy lady, 45-55 for fun times and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398419** ☺**74YR** old widower, honest, fit, likes walks, weekends away, seeks lady for companionship. **Medway area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382427** ☺**BOBBY** 39, Afro/Asian decent, dark hair/eyes, likes nights in/out, walks, animals, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398147** ☺**PROFESSIONAL** male, OHAC, independent, early 40's, likes good things in life, seeks warm, sincere female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398115** ☺**ALAN** 72, W/LTM someone nice, age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393719** ☺**RICHARD** 47, single, looking for happy LTR with female, 37-68, likes holidays, theatre, cooking, music, country walks etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398071** ☺**HANDSOME** MD 44, 6ft 3ins, slim, fair, great company, own car/boat/motorcycle, seeks slim, submissive female, 35-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397945** ☺**RICHARD** seeking young female for good times and fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397883** ☺**NICE** guy 37 seeks female 48-65 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393128** ☺**54YR** old male, seeks mature female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397477** ☺**RAY** 41, shy, likes gardening, allotments, mopeds, seeks shy lady 41-50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397301** ☺**30YR** old male, genuine, passionate, respectful, seeking female for romance and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396407** ☺**ANNA** 5ft 4ins, 63, N/S, seeks N/S, genuine man for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374598** ☺**LADY** 50, single, enjoys nights in/out, cinema, travel, country walks, seeks sincere, genuine male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367851** ☺**BLACK** female, 35, GSOH, caring, loving, kind, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376611** ☺**56YR** old female, 5ft 6ins, GSOH, N/S, likes socialising, cards, dancing, racket ball, seeks male, 50-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353773** ☺**WIDOWER** 70, lonely, fed up, seeks female for nights out, meals and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397875** ☺**MARTYN** 45, average guy, likes films, theatre, meals out, GSOH, seeks similar female for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397863** ☺**63YR** old male, seeks similar aged female for possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393224** ☺**6FT** male, 58, slim, light hearted, likes clubbing, would expect to add a dimension to our relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397821** ☺**SLIM** retired gent, seeks female, 55-70 for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397723** ☺**PHIL** biker, single dad, slim, seeks similar slim female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397705** ☺**HANDSOME** tall guy 40's, slim, smart, climber, skier, holidayed, happy disposition, seeks slim, petite lady for great relationship/times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397271** ☺**ROGER** 56, smoker, brown hair/eyes, average build, likes most things, seeks female for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397243** ☺**DENNIS** retired, dark hair, brown eyes, fun to be with, seeking love and companionship with



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the wheel at
the home of
champions

SEE PAGE 49



WARTIME WONDER

Patricia Routledge
on the pianist who
played for Britain

SEE PAGE 50

Kent Weekend

A large photograph of a man in a tuxedo, resembling James Bond, holding a handgun. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a car wheel.

The spy who loved Kent

He's taken the world stage by storm again
but 007 is hop county through and through SEE PAGE 45

PLUS: What might just be the cosiest country pub ever - **food and drink p51** There are signs of life in the housing market - **property p53** Range Rover lightens up to reach new heights - **driving p57**



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THE INTERVIEW

Michael Paterson

WITH Daniel Craig's latest outing as James Bond now thrilling UK cinema audiences, author and historian Michael Paterson has taken an in-depth look at the world's most famous secret agent.

His book, *Amazing & Extraordinary Facts: James Bond*, has unearthed many intriguing details about the novels and films that feature 007 – the character created by Ian Fleming, who lived in St Margaret's Bay.

And there are some very Kentish connections to Bond.

"Fleming was a journalist by background," said Paterson. "He therefore had a certain ability to convey the essence of a place. He describes both Istanbul and Japan very effectively in his books, but he preferred to write about locations he knew and loved: France, the Alps, Jamaica, the USA – and Kent.

"He not only lived in the county but had his character grow up there and set an entire novel, *Moonraker*, near St Margaret's Bay.

"He was very patriotic and the Kent countryside is so typically English it's not surprising he developed great affection for it.

"It provided a number of things: the golf course at Sandwich, the Aylesford paper mill, the cliff-top setting for Sir Hugo Drax's rocket launch."

No other county features anything like as much in the Bond stories.

One favourite Kent Bond story is the inspiration for the agent's code number 007 – the same digits as a bus that runs from Dover to London.

"As far back as Elizabethan times, the 00 symbol – resembling a pair of eyes – on a document signified it was top secret. It meant 'For your eyes only'. A double-O prefix was used by the German intelligence service during World War One, and Fleming would have known this.

"His own service, British Naval Intelligence, sometimes used it, too. It was automatically associated in his mind with the highest secrecy.

"It will have struck him as ironic and amusing that, when driving



ALL THRILLS AND SPILLS: Daniel Craig reprises his role as James Bond 007 in the new film *Skyfall*, out this week, but, as Michael Paterson says in his new book, Bond's creator Ian Fleming used his Kent roots as inspiration for the fictional character

A lifelong Bond with Kent

A new book on Britain's most famous secret agent reveals his close ties to this county and how a bus route inspired that 007 code. **Nick Ames** investigates.

from London to Kent and back, he constantly passed on the road buses that bore this number.

"At some point it will have occurred to him it could work as an agent's code number. It was concise and memorable, and sounded mysterious.

"At the very least Fleming and his fans owe something to the bus company for having jogged his memory and providing inspiration."

Paterson says the movies are a constantly-evolving part of the character's whole mythology.

"The reinvention, or adaptation, of Bond over 50 years has been extremely successful – as we can see from box-office takings.

"Each time there is a new film, or a new actor, another generation of fans is created. The genre could not have survived if he had remained stuck in a time-war. People want him to be contemporary and they go to see the films expecting to be dazzled by ever-more sophisticated stunts and gadgets.

"The films are certainly of their time

– who could forget Roger Moore's flared trousers, or those awful safari suits? Within a few years, not only the clothes but the hairstyles and cars and even the slang seem quaint, yet this does not matter because by that time they can be enjoyed for the nostalgia."

Paterson is keen to share the Bond lines he most enjoyed and also say who is his top man in the role.

"Among the most quoted phrases from the films is a certain throwaway remark of Goldfinger's, delivered by the affable Gert Frobe, who played him: 'Do you expect me to talk?' 'No, Mr Bond, I expect you to die'.

"I think, however, that undoubtedly the most famous line in the entire genre comes in *Dr No* when we first meet the character.

"The scene is the one in which he is asked his name at the roulette table and the camera pans upward, revealing his face as he says 'Bond, James Bond'. This is one of cinema's immortal moments. Sean Connery

was without doubt an actor of ability and screen presence. As the man who 'made' the role he is generally, according to polls, seen as the best.

"I would agree, but then he was the James Bond of my generation.

"My editor, a woman younger than I am, regards Moore as the archetypal Bond and all others as mere imitations. I believe Timothy Dalton, a fine classical actor, was miscast and Pierce Brosnan was credible and extremely good.

"But Daniel Craig is a welcome addition to the list because in an age of cinematic realism he shows just how brutal the world of espionage can be and how unpleasant are those who do this type of job.

"That leaves George Lazenby, traditionally seen as the worst.

"I feel this is unfair. He gave a very good performance in *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, handling a testing range of emotions and situations with surprising ability for someone with no acting training

"There is no reason the genre should not continue for a further 50 years and I believe there will still be Bond films a century from now.

"They have long since moved beyond the original novels and taken on a life of their own."

But has he heard, on radio, the first person to ever play Bond – Bob 'Blockbusters' Holness, who attended what used to be Ashford Grammar School?

"Sadly not. I know Bond works well on radio, and Holness was one of four actors to depict him in this medium.

"That was in 1956, when the character was still faithful to Fleming's original – more dour, more humourless and less self-assured than he later became.

"But good for Norton Knatchbull School that they've produced a 007. Bond belongs to Kent, despite having Scottish-Swiss parentage.

"I'm glad someone associated with the county has played him."



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CHRISTMAS DINING

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Why here...
The Drum Inn is a 300-year-old building with a fascinating history of military memoirs and smuggler stories that are still told to this day in the pub placed at the heart of Kent. Many of its original features, including two working fireplaces, give the venue an inviting and relaxing atmosphere. The team at the Ashford pub serves award-winning guest ales that are changed regularly, as well as traditional, freshly-cooked pub food seven days a week. Look out for the steak-night deals offering a steak meal and large glass of wine for just £14.95. On Friday, November 2, The

Party to the beat of the drum during the holiday season

Drum Inn hosts a Guy Fawkes night with traditional bonfire and fireworks. Enjoy real ales and mulled cider with a hog roast – tickets are priced at £5. Pre-purchase family tickets (two adults, two children) for £14, or purchase on the night for £18. At Christmas time, the menu will offer a range of traditional Christmas fare, as well as classic roasts and alternative options including vegetarian meals. The Christmas menu is on the pub's website.

On the menu...
The Drum Inn's day-to-day menu offers traditional food like beer Brie fritters, breaded whitebait, battered cod, 10oz rump steak, home-made steak-and-ale pie, the BBQ chicken melt, seabass or traditional bangers and mash. Prices range from £8.96 to £14 for a main course.

How to book...
The Drum Inn, Stone Street, Stanford North, Ashford TN25 6DN (phone 01303 812125, web www.thedruminn.com)

Why here...
The Black Horse is nestled in the delightful village of Monks Horton. This traditional oak-beamed pub and restaurant offers a taste of Kent at its very best. With ample parking and a roaring open fire in the cold winter months, this is a perfect venue for any occasion, whether it be a family meal or a Christmas party. The pub complements its surroundings perfectly, a picture-postcard property that is the epitome of what a country pub should be. It has an extensive beer garden to the rear, which looks out on to countryside, with an enclosed children's play area – an ideal spot for both customers and

Take winter at a canter and relax at The Black Horse

their children. Savour the freshly-prepared dishes with an Italian twist. Light lunches start from £3.50, while the Wednesday lunch club offers two courses for £7.50. Or treat yourself to a Sunday roast, carved especially for you at £8.95. The team also offers personalised catering for all events. For more details about the Christmas party menu and details, phone 01303 812182 or email the pub at info@theblackhorse.uk.com.

On the menu...
Examples: tiger prawns sautéed with garlic and chilli butter, or chargrilled chorizo with mixed leaves, mint and cucumber dip, or seared scallops with bacon, mango chutney and salad. Seafood crumble (haddock, prawns and cod) in a thyme-and-garlic sauce.

How to book...
The Black Horse, Fiddling Lane, Monks Horton, near Ashford TN25 6AP (web www.theblackhorse.uk.com)



Why here...
From the moment you enter the Walpole Bay Hotel and Museum, you step back in time to the ambience of a bygone era. This historic Margate hotel was built in 1914, extended in 1927 and is now being lovingly restored to its former glory. The Walpole is a family-run hotel that offers a home-from-home atmosphere combined with a warmth and timeless elegance. From the relaxing flower-decked terrace with sea views to the Edwardian-style restaurant, you will rediscover a passion for the finer things in life. And to make your visit complete, enjoy a ride in the 1927 Otis

Party time and Christmas fun at the Walpole Bay Hotel

trellis gated lift that services every floor. The hotel has also had numerous TV appearances – see if you recognise it! Traditional four-course Christmas luncheons, evening dinners and Christmas parties will be offered from mid-November. Lunches will include luxury crackers and decorated tables. Party nights will include a disco from 9pm to midnight in the ballroom, luxury crackers and decorated tables.

On the menu...
Pre-Christmas luncheons at £24.50 per person. Pre-Christmas evening dinners for £28.50 per person. Christmas party nights are priced at £28.50 per person. Christmas Day is fully booked due to popular demand, but book your meal or party now in the run-up!

How to book...
Walpole Living Museum, Fifth Avenue, Cliftonville CT9 2JJ (phone 01843 221703, web www.walpolebayhotel.co.uk)

Why here...
On the village green opposite the church, the black-beamed, white-walled Red Lion could well be the perfect English-postcard image. Located in the picturesque village of Hernhill, the warm, cosy atmosphere at the Lion will make you want to stay all day and all night. And why not? With the traditional log fires, live entertainment and quality home-cooked food, this free house has something for everyone. There is a safe children's play area in the garden and a sunny front patio, making the pub a desirable location for families, parties and a romantic dinner. There is a top selection of

Home-cooked festive flavours at the picturesque Red Lion

real ales, wines and beers as well as a good choice of meals on the à la carte menu. The specials change with the seasons and the team has recently launched its Taste of Kent menu in the refurbished restaurant, serving dishes and ingredients sourced within a couple of miles of the pub. Food is served daily Monday to Saturday from midday to 2.30pm and 6pm-9pm. On Sunday it is served from midday to 8pm. Christmas-party-booking is now available.

On the menu...
Example: Smoked duck and orange salad; bronze turkey served with potatoes roasted in dripping or tender pork belly stuffed with the Red Lion stuffing topped with a cider-and-grated-apple sauce and roast potatoes; Christmas pudding covered with brandy butter.

How to book...
The Red Lion, Crockham Lane, Hernhill ME13 9JR (phone 01227 751207, web www.theredlion.org)



by being late in booking your Christmas meal. Enjoy our selection of superb venues and then make your choice!



Why here...
Set deep in the Kent countryside, the boutique hotel and restaurant of Elvey Farm makes a statement... you instantly realise that this is somewhere special. Tucked away on a medieval farmstead, Elvey is made up of a cluster of buildings centred on a beautiful 16th-century barn overlooking sunny hills in the summer months, but it really comes into its own during the winter – and especially on the run-up to Christmas. The log fire crackles away in the bar, the restaurant is decked out in traditional Christmas garb, the frost glistens in the surrounding fields and the smells from the

Eat, drink, be merry and stay over at beautiful Elvey Farm

kitchen are too tempting for words. The team prides itself on attention to detail and this restaurant in the heart of Darling Buds Of May country will have you reminiscing of those oh so classic holiday seasons with their hot, wholesome food and stylish decorations. The majority of ingredients used in Elvey's original dishes are sourced locally, home-made from scratch and hearty. Why not stay and make a night of it?

On the menu...
Elvey Farm is the perfect place to host a Christmas party. Lunches are just £15 for three courses, and the evening party menu is £28. Rooms for £85 in December. Open for lunch from Wednesday to Sunday and every evening. To see the full menus, visit the website.

How to book...
Elvey Farm, Elvey Lane, Pluckley TN27 0SU (phone 01233 840442, website www.elveyfarm.co.uk)

Why here...
The Waggon at Hale is a well-run family pub with good food, good wines and beers and a very friendly, relaxed atmosphere. There is always plenty going on at the Waggon, with themed nights, quizzes, charity events and live music. Families are always welcome and in fact in the pub's big family-friendly garden there is even a mini family farm featuring chickens, guinea pigs, rabbits and the star of the show, Crackling the miniature pig. Proprietor Emma Pearson said: "We do not try to be anything more than what we already are – a warm and friendly country pub serving real food and drink, selected, prepared and served to you by our friendly team." From November 29 to December 23 the Waggon will be offering its pre-Christmas menu priced at £22.95 per person. That price includes a starter, a main course and a dessert from an excellent range including traditional Christmas pudding, chocolate brownies, tasty French apple tart or, for the ultra- sweet-lovers out there, the raspberry-and-white chocolate cheesecake brûlée.

It's going to be a real cracker with delicious Waggon menu

On the menu...
Choose a starter from the tomato-and-basil soup, the deep-fried Brie, the duck-and-orange pâté or prawn-and-crayfish salad. For mains, there is traditional roast turkey, roast topside of Scottish beef, mushroom-and-chestnut-stuffed plaice or stuffed red peppers.

How to book...
The Waggon, 179 Capstone Road, Chatham ME5 7PP (phone 01634 400800, web www.waggonathale.co.uk)



Why here...
World's Wonder Restaurant – where meals are to dine for! At the Wonder the team only provides home-made meals. From starters to desserts, every dish is created from local free-range meats and seasonal produce, made 'like Mum makes'. Packet food is definitely out – come and taste the difference at the Warehorne eatery! The home-made, oven-cooked, thick-filled, short-crust-pastry pies made in the pub kitchen are renowned for their taste – while the soups, mains and desserts got World's Wonder voted top gastro pub in the county's restaurant awards. Just an example of the

Wonder at the homely kitchen at the Warehorne eatery

Christmas menu includes a home-made carrot-and-coriander soup or smoked salmon and prawns with horseradish and lime dressing. Main courses offer fresh roast turkey, sausages wrapped in bacon and stuffing or succulent roast topside of beef served with home-made horseradish sauce or plaice fillet stuffed with prawns served with orange and cranberry sauce, all served with seasonal vegetables and Yorkshire puddings unless stated otherwise.

On the menu...
Desserts include home-made Christmas pudding with a brandy sauce or white-chocolate cheesecake and many others. Tea or coffee and home-made mince pies, crackers and poppers are all included. Vegetarian options available. £19.95 per person.

How to book...
World's Wonder, Warehorne TN26 2LU (phone 01233 732431, web www.worldswonder.co.uk, email info@worldswonder.co.uk)

Why here...
The Sondes Arms at Selling near Faversham is a classic country pub deep in the heart of Kent, just a stone's throw from lovely Perry Wood. Get in the Christmas spirit with a warm, welcoming bar, log fires and a delicious Christmas menu to suit anyone's tastes. Serving the village for more than a century, the eatery boasts cask real ales, a nice garden area, separate restaurant and bar with plenty of parking for travelling guests. The team at The Sondes will be hosting Christmas parties from Saturday, December 1, until Christmas Eve, but don't worry – you can take the

Bringing in the new year in style at The Sondes Arms

whole family on Christmas Day for a meal with all the trimmings and celebrations. You don't even have to worry about the washing-up! The holiday festivities continue into New Year's Eve with haggis servings and bagpipes to bring in 2013 in style. There is a free glass of Champagne or malt whisky at midnight, plus live music from the amazing Dave Ralph. Don't hesitate to contact the team for more details and prices on both events.

On the menu...
The pre-Christmas menu from December 1-24 includes four stunning courses, a mince pie and coffee for £14.95 per person. The Christmas Day menu offers a spectacular seven courses, a mince pie and coffee for £54 per person. Book now to be sure of a place!

How to book...
The Sondes Arms, Selling (phone 01227 752517, email info@thesondesarms.co.uk, web www.thesondesarms.co.uk)



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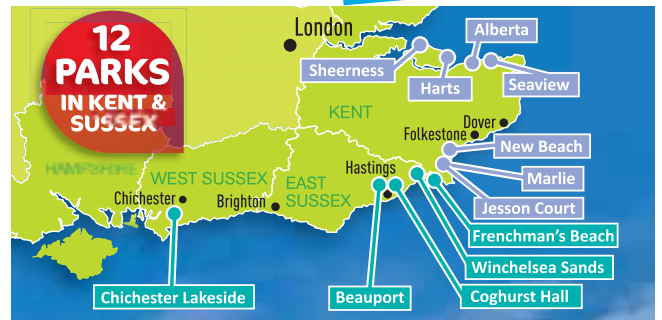
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Pumpkin patter Halloween history

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www.penshurstplace.com

SEE the autumn colours at Penshurst Place and Gardens as the nights draw in and the moon lights up the historic building.

Half-term will be the perfect opportunity for the family to take a glance at the past and also enjoy the festivities of Halloween.

You can join the daily pumpkin trail, which has clues to help you find the fruit around the gardens. There will also be craft activities daily from midday to 4pm.

There is also the not-too-scary storytelling on Wednesday, October 31 – perfect for younger visitors. There are three showings, from 2pm to 3.30pm, followed by a fancy-dress competition at 4pm in the Tea Room.

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Lewis Hamilton and Jenson Button learnt their trade.

There are October half-term Turn up'n'Drive sessions for youngsters aged four to 16 on selected dates.

For those aged four to seven, 15-minute sessions are available on 5mph electric karts, while those aged eight to 11 (and at least 4ft 2in tall) can experience the 20mph petrol karts and 12- to 16-year-olds can drive 40mph petrol karts.

Prices start at £15 per session. Try the popular Kids' Karting parties including laser tag games for ages four to 16.



Still alive and still kicking Simple Minds

Winter Gardens, Margate
Tuesday, April 16, 2013
01843 292795
www.leisureforce.co.uk

CLASSIC 80s pop-rockers Simple Minds will be bringing their tour to the Winter Gardens in Margate next year.

The Scottish group, who had huge success with hits like Alive And Kicking, Don't You (Forget About Me) and Belfast Child will play the seafront venue on Tuesday, April 16.

The group, who are heavily associated with the soundtrack of top 80s film The Breakfast Club, had No 1 hits in both the UK and the US and have sold more than 60 million albums.

The core of the band remains the same, with founding members Jim Kerr (vocals), Charlie Burchill (guitars) and drummer Mel Gaynor continuing to play songs that helped define the decade.

Tickets are on sale now priced at £37.50.



A funny freak Meet Frankie Halloween

The Forum, Sittingbourne
Wednesday, October 31
Free to enter
Open 11am to 4pm

THERE will be a real Halloween horror at The Forum during half-term week.

On Wednesday, Frankie and his coffin will be creeping around the shopping centre

with his hilarious and ghostly performances.

Throughout the day, children and adults alike are invited to have their photo taken with the fantastic walkabout illusion – a fantastic opportunity for all the family to start their Halloween celebrations in frightful style.

Shopping centre manager Colin Bell said: "The Frankie Halloween show is guaranteed to add to a great atmosphere in the centre while getting shoppers' spirits up for a night of trick-or-treating and Halloween parties."

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Patricia keeps up appearances telling story of wartime pianist

By Joe Bill

joe.bill@archant.co.uk

TO hear "The Bucket residence, the lady of the house speaking" in the 90s was to know that you were viewing one of Britain's most popular sitcoms.

Keeping Up Appearances aired for five series, with enthusiastic socialite Hyacinth Bucket, sorry Bouquet, at the head of the show.

The star was played by Patricia Routledge, also known for her role as the BBC's Hetty Wainthropp, and she now heads to Kent as part of a new show called Admission: One Shilling.

It features the true story of Myra Hess, a concert pianist who performed to British audiences during the Second World War.

Routledge tells the story using letters, broadcasts and conversations the performer had during her active years.

The 83-year-old said: "Myra Hess had a great reputation in the UK, America and Europe. When war broke out in 1939, the Government closed down all theatres, cinemas, galleries, any places that there could be a concentrated mass of people in the event of a bomb attack.

"So there was no entertainment of any kind and Myra Hess thought this

was not tolerable and that the people needed something. From her point of view, they needed music.

"She approached the director of The National Gallery in London to set up a series of lunchtime concerts to be available to anyone who wanted to come in their lunch-hour.

"At the beginning she thought 40 or 50 people would turn up, but the response was in its thousands for the first concert. The concerts went on for six-and-a-half years. They were very popular and so was she."

Routledge was fortunate enough to see Hess play in Liverpool during the war, an incident that eventually led to her role in the show.

"It made the most enormous impression on me. I don't think I would be doing this show if I hadn't witnessed her great gift. The force of her personality I will never forget."

The show, which heads to the Stag theatre in Sevenoaks next week, has been compiled by her great-nephew composer Nigel Hess and features the music of Bach, Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms, Schumann and Chopin played



by international concert pianist Piers Lane.

The hour-long musical and theatre showcase is touring the UK this winter, but all the travelling is not something that bothers Patricia.

"I enjoy what I do. It doesn't matter where it is - I would go to the Pitcairn Islands if I enjoyed what I was doing. Yes, there is a certain discomfort, but if you enjoy what you're doing then that pales into insignificance."

The actress is still best remembered as Hyacinth Bucket, however you pronounce it, and, with the 42 episodes continuing to air on British TV and around the globe, why wouldn't she be?

But don't be about to think that a comeback is on the cards.



TRUE STORY: Patricia Routledge is to perform the story of pianist Myra Hess

"We have all gone our different ways, and of course, sadly, Geoffrey Hughes [Onslow] died recently," she said.

"We did five series in total and it is shown all over the world still. Yes, there were calls to bring it back, but I thought it had travelled its course, really. It was a very enjoyable period of time.

"I think it's nice to hear people ask 'Is there going to be some more?' rather than 'Oh, is that still on?'."

Admission: One Shilling plays at the Stag theatre in Sevenoaks on Saturday, November 3, at 8pm. Tickets cost £23-£25; visit www.stagevenoaks.co.uk or phone the box office on 01732 450175.

Gallery lifts Thanet arts yet further

SATIS House in Ramsgate is the setting for Kent's latest prestigious art gallery.

Updown Gallery, owned by curator and director Kate Smith, will host exhibitions featuring the best modern and contemporary British, European and US artists.

Smith returns to Kent after more than a decade in London and New York galleries working at the forefront of the international art scene.

She said: "Since the opening of Turner Contemporary in Margate last year, Thanet's art scene has flourished, and we are really excited about adding a different dimension to it.

"The flexibility offered by a privately-run gallery means we will change exhibitions more frequently, keeping the freshness and vibrancy of many London galleries.

"Updown Gallery will host shows by leading artists as well as up-and-coming names."

The 2013 schedule already includes work by the likes of Bridget Riley, Sir Howard Hodgkin, Ben Nicholson, Ian Davenport and Piers Secunda.

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FOOD & DRINK **Flavours of Kent**

To be included on this page, please email
features@kosmedia.co.uk

Cosy idyll in the country that one day I might never leave

If there's a place to go on a rainy Sunday afternoon when your head's a bit fuzzy from the night before and you need a little tender loving care, then Five Bells Inn in East Brabourne is it.

Nestled at the foot of the North Downs, this stunning inn boasts old-world charm with a modern twist.

The warm, inviting interior, with its oak beams draped with hops, dozens of candles, vases of fresh flowers on big oak tables and a burning log fire, is so cosy that you run the risk of never wanting to leave.

And the menu – although a little difficult to read, perhaps because of its over-quirky design – promises fresh, local food, with a wine list boasting the best of Kent's own produce. You can even buy olives, home-made chutney and other delights on the menu to take home with you.

Despite the pub being quite busy and our not having booked a table, we were immediately invited to sit at a large oak table and handed menus to look over.

We ordered two glasses of the Chapel Down Flint white wine – made in Tenterden – some olives and bread with oil and balsamic vinegar.

Instead of ordering separate starters, we chose a selection: bruschetta with goat's cheese,

RESTAURANT REVIEW



Scotch hens' eggs and duck-leg croquettes with celeriac purée. Each one was delicious and clearly made with fresh ingredients.

With the smell of wood smoke in our nostrils and our bellies slightly full from our starters, we chose our mains.

I decided on the fish cakes, packed full with haddock, salmon and prawns from local fishmonger Griggs of Hythe, mixed with leeks and celery and topped with oven-roasted potato mash, served with a garden salad. My guest chose the saddle of lamb, which came with mashed potato and vegetables.

Other tempting offers on the menu were the Bells beefy burger with crispy bacon, hot blue cheese and red cabbage coleslaw, and the tagliatelle with Mediterranean vegetables, home-made basil pesto, toasted pine nuts and Parmesan.

The dessert menu boasted a selection of sweet treats and old favourites as well as ice-creams. There was also the Kentish cheeseboard, with a selection of the county's best cheeses.

We ordered coffee and sat for a while, taking in the quirky mix of adornments filling the pub, from a huge mermaid statue to a small wooden pig on our table.

Although the service was slightly slow, the staff were friendly and in no way made us feel in a rush to leave, even though we sat for a while after our meal.

With its fresh local produce, cosy atmosphere and delicious food, this family-friendly pub, apparently only recently refurbished, is an absolute find – so good that I'm almost loath to share it.

The total bill came to £75.

Marijke Cox

■ **Five Bells Inn**
The Street
East Brabourne TN25 5LP

Wood-fired pizza team heads back to Margate

MARGATE'S seafront will house a new restaurant that you may well have heard of.

The Great British Pizza Company, which operated a pop-up unit on the harbour arm during the summer, now has a permanent roof over its head.

After its success with the alfresco method on the beach, the team has taken up a position where it can fully demonstrate its skills with a wood-fired oven bringing pizza to the classic British seaside.

With an award-winning chef and a former food critic at the helm, the GBPC could make for a warm eatery on the cold winter nights, but don't worry... the pop-up shop will return in summer.

Good Pub Guide hails The Three Chimneys

THE Three Chimneys in Biddenden has been named Kent Dining Pub Of The Year by The Good Pub Guide.

The guide, which highlights the best from each county, named the eatery in Hareplaine Road as Kent's best overall because of its pub garden, cask ales, good food and snacks as well as its allowing four-legged friends into the bar.


It was described as having "pubby beamed rooms of considerable individuality, log fires, imaginative food and pretty garden".

The pub was also commended for serving Biddenden cider and apple juice.

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Surge in prices is 'evidence of life in the market'

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

HOUSE-SELLERS upped their asking prices by more than £8,000 in October, the biggest rise in eight months, according to property website Rightmove.

The typical property asking price rose by 3.5 per cent month on month to £243,168, with the South East performing slightly above the UK average as it saw a 3.9 per cent increase.

The website said that the figures were “evidence of some life in the market”.

However, it suggested the upturn was most likely to be due to a lack of properties for sale, meaning would-be buyers had less choice.

Prices are 1.5 per cent higher than a year ago, going a long way towards reversing the £11,000 drop in prices between June and September that the market saw as events like the European Championships and Olympics dominated.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) said mortgage-lending to home-buyers hit a two-year high in August. However, it added that it was too early to say what long-term effect recently-

launched Government schemes to kick-start lending were having.

Mortgage availability has been increasing since an £80 billion funding for lending scheme was launched at the start of August, although much of this has been concentrated on people with larger deposits of at least 20 per cent.

Lenders have also toughened their borrowing criteria in recent months and Rightmove said estate agents were still reporting that mortgages were no easier to obtain.

Miles Shipside, director of Rightmove, said an increase in asking prices was "most likely attributable to the continued shortage of new property supply".

He said: "Sellers need to be mindful that the window of opportunity to sell before the traditional winter slowdown is a narrow one, and they risk being left out in the cold for months until the spring market thaw."

"In addition, estate agents are reporting that mortgages are still no easier to obtain, with risk-averse lenders nit-picking every detail of the mortgage application paperwork, even from buyers who seem squeaky clean."



ON THE MOVE: Despite asking prices increasing by £8,000, June to September saw a fall of £11,000

Financial incentive offered in council scheme for tenants willing to downsize

DARTFORD'S council tenants who do not utilise all the space in their homes are being encouraged to downsize to make room for families who need more space.

The Downsize for Cash scheme offers a financial reward to secure

tenants who are under-occupying their homes and helps them to move to a smaller property, freeing up larger properties for families in need.

If the tenant is eligible to take part in the scheme, they will receive £500 for each bedroom and parlour released.

plus £100 to help with moving costs.

Additional funding may be available for removal and packing expenses, too. For example, a couple moving from a three-bedroom house to a one-bedroom place would receive £1,100.

In addition, the borough council will do its best to move the tenant to an area of Dartford of their choice.

Pat Coleman, portfolio holder for housing, said: "The council aims to assist as many people as possible in finding suitable housing for themselves

and their families. To do this, we need our existing tenants' help in making under-occupied larger properties available to families in housing need.

"The Downsize for Cash scheme makes the move rewarding for all involved."

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High Hurstwood, East Sussex Offers Invited by end October

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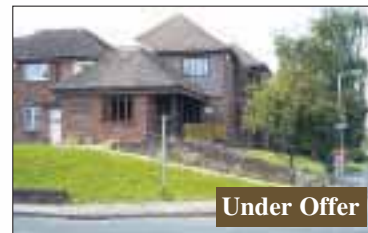
Sevenoaks, Kent £180,000-£200,000

Approximately 25 acres of woodland with a timber sawmill which may offer future planning potential.



Lamberhurst Quarter, Kent £199,950 (Cash buyers only)

3 bedroom detached property requiring total renovation (redevelopment STP) in grounds of approx. 0.25 acres.



Iorthingfleet, Kent £200,000-£250,000

Development opportunity with planning pending for 2 x 2 bed and 1 x 3 bed apartments and parking for 9 vehicles.

WANTED

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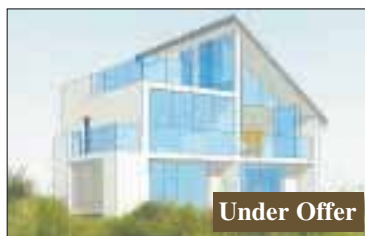
East Sutton, Kent Offers Invited

Existing commercial building with planning to replace with a single storey 2 bedroom property for holiday accommodation.



East Malling, Kent £220,000-£250,000

Single building plot with planning permission for a detached 3 bedroom dwelling of approximately 1,485 sq ft.



Greatstone, Kent £149,000

Single plot with planning permission for a detached 2 bedroom property backing onto the sea.



Deal, Kent £100,000

Single building plot with planning permission for a detached 2 bedroom bungalow.



Crowborough, East Sussex Offers Invited

Single building plot with planning for a detached 2 bed chalet style house of circa 1,300 sq ft in grounds of approx. 0.15 acres.



Whitstable, Kent £425,000

Site measuring approximately 1 acre with planning for a substantial detached house of circa 4,000 sq ft.



Pett Level, East Sussex £120,000

Single plot with lapsed planning for a replacement dwelling, subject to design.



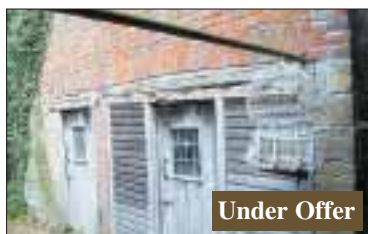
Tenterden, Kent Offers Invited

A pair of semi-detached cottages in need of refurbishment with a large side garden with development potential STP.



Wadhurst, East Sussex £299,950

Colt bungalow with great views over open countryside for continued occupation or redevelopment subject to planning.



Buxted, East Sussex £125,000

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Crowborough, East Sussex

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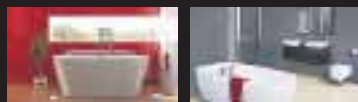
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First **GEAR** MOTORING NEWS

- Vauxhall unveils its Cascada convertible
- Best of both worlds from VW's new BlueGT
- Skoda's Yeti takes top spot at Which? awards



Wagons roll as Chevrolet makes the Cruze a load more inviting

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By **Steve Loader**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ORDER books are open for the latest and fourth-generation Range Rover – the most luxurious yet. But it didn't start out like that. When the original arrived in 1970, it was more comfortable than its Land Rover sister – still soldiering on as the venerable Defender – but the interior was designed to be hosed out and to carry occasional ewes and lambs or straw bales. And it wasn't offered with four doors until 1981, probably the point at which it started to be seen as a luxury car in the making, as a go-anywhere people-lugger for country estates and then, increasingly, as a car to grace both Chelsea and the Cotswolds.

Now it is Land Rover's luxury flagship, heading a sub-brand including the Range Rover Sport and much-in-demand Evoque compact SUV.

The new Range Rover (from £71,295) is lighter, stronger and more refined, largely due to the world's first lightweight all-aluminium monocoque SUV body, which saves a hefty 420 kilos over the previous car, with consequent benefits to fuel economy and CO2 emissions.

The first cars arrive with customers in January 2013, but Land Rover will follow up later in the year with a diesel-hybrid version expected to emit 169g/km of CO2 – that's on a par with many family hatchbacks.

Land Rover, which once had production halted briefly by Greenpeace activists, is obviously sensitive to the drive for eco-friendliness; the new Evoque range includes the Pure front-wheel-drive eco-model, and the latest Range Rover is being produced in a new low-energy manufacturing facility at the Solihull plant.

But there is also still a lot of 'Britishness' about the car that has helped power the revival of the Jaguar Land Rover group globally.

Land Rover global brand director John Edwards said of the latest model: "The Range Rover is our flagship and a true British success story, designed, engineered and built in Britain. "Its distinctive design, breadth of capability and class-leading refinement and comfort have always made it unique.

"When we asked our customers what they wanted us to change, they told us 'Don't change it, just make it better'. We set out to create not just the world's finest luxury SUV, but the world's finest luxury vehicle."

Despite all the talk about luxury, the car has not lost sight of its original USP as a comfortable go-anywhere car; Land Rover says the new aluminium structure body and latest chassis technologies have taken the vehicle "to another level, both in the breadth and accessibility of its off-road capability and its on-road handling and refinement."

As such, it also becomes the halo model for the rest of the Land Rover range, also including the multiple-award-winning Land Rover Discovery and its smaller sister, the Freelander.



RANGE ROVER

- Price:
from £71,295
- Driving appeal:
Not yet driven
- Image:
★★★★★
- Space:
★★★★★
- Value:
★★
- Running costs:
★★
- Reliability:
★★★★
- How green?:
★★
- Best rival:
Mercedes M-Class

Lighter Range Rover continues to make luxurious new heights



CLASS ACT: Range Rover has made its fourth-generation model lighter, stronger and more refined, making a big difference to fuel economy and CO2 emissions while keeping the car's distinctive design and comfort

“

DON'T LIKE

”

... the price, but then exclusivity is part of the deal with the Range Rover, which has morphed from farmer's utility runabout to executive 4x4 limo.

“

NOT SURE

”

... anyone is yet convinced a Range Rover can be green, but the aluminium body and forthcoming diesel-hybrid will certainly aid its eco PR.

“

REALLY LIKE

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... how the car's design has evolved in style and technology without really changing both its character and ability to conquer terrain in comfort.



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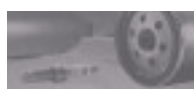
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Honda Jazz gets more pizzazz

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THOUGH it's called the Jazz, Honda has waited an age to give us a variation on the theme. In the meantime, this supermini-cum-MPV played the same old tune, proclaiming its versatility, reliability and general niceness; not very jazzy but a theme appealing to an older, easy-listening fanbase.

But now we have the sporty new Jazz Si (£14,550) going some way to widening the audience for this admirable little car.

Before anyone gets up and starts be-bopping, though, Honda insists it is only a limited edition, albeit one it is keen to promote with a zero per cent private lease deal (PCP) of £149 per month with a 27 per cent deposit.

What you get is sharp colours – black, red, white and bright blue – plus bespoke spoilers front and back, side skirts, privacy glass and eye-catching 16-inch two-tone alloys.

Visually, it's a bit of a revelation. I drew the short straw with a white test car, though; the Si looks best in black or red, while yellow would have been a good option – it's great on standard Jazz models (from £11,605).

Attempts to 'jazz' the interior are less effective; the leather-trimmed steering wheel is welcome and cruise control is thrown in, but it lacks something and the bespoke black and silver seats look a bit tacky even if they are comfy and supportive.

It's not all cosmetics, though; the Si suspension has been beefed up to deliver improved straight-line stability and body control, while the electric power-steering has been tweaked for improved feel and response.

The standard Jazz is a driver pleaser anyway, but these changes do sharpen it up without affecting a decent ride and long-distance refinement.

However, the Si doesn't quite walk the talk on the power front; this Jazz is a variation on the existing 1.4ES model (£13,750), which has a 98bhp petrol engine and five-speed gearbox.

HONDA JAZZ 1.4Si: PRICE £14,550

FACT FILE

Driving appeal: ★★★★★

Image: ★★★★★

Space: ★★★★★

Value: ★★★★★

Running costs: ★★★★★

Reliability: ★★★★★

How green?: ★★★★★

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SHIFTING UP A GEAR: Honda's new limited-edition Jazz Si comes in four colours – black, red, white and blue – plus bespoke spoilers, side skirts, 16-inch two-tone alloy wheels and privacy glass, although changes to the interior are less effective

It's good enough for 0-62mph in 11.5 seconds, but that's not quite the pizzazz required for a sporting Jazz, while a six-speed gearbox would offer more relaxation at the top end when motorway cruising.

But perhaps the Si really is a limited edition, a toe in the water by Honda before diving in with something more overtly sporty.

Most would-be Si buyers will be happy it looks the part anyway yet retains all the things they love about the Jazz and translated into a string of awards, most recently the JD Power customer satisfaction and reliability survey's supermini of the year and Which? best used supermini.

A Made in Britain stamp, courtesy of manufacture at the brand's Swindon plant, adds to its appeal, but the car's ace is Tardis-like capacity within relatively compact dimensions, plus clever packaging.

The rear seats fold flat for quick transformation into a van, but the bases also hinge and lock upwards, allowing extra stowage beneath or side loading of a bicycle, for instance – though you need to whip the front wheel off first. The car seats five comfortably – rear legroom is excellent – and slightly higher than a standard supermini, giving good visibility out of a glassy cabin.

Even with the 1.4-litre engine of the Si, you can also average some 50mpg.

You could get more from a diesel, but these take the fun out of small cars and cost more upfront anyway so you need to cover great mileages to recoup the consumption benefits.

Honda doesn't offer a diesel anyway, preferring a petrol-electric hybrid Jazz option, costing from £16,300 and averaging about 10mpg more than the 1.4-litre unit on the Si while being only slightly faster in acceleration.

First GEAR MOTORING NEWS



Cascada open to the world

AFTER teasing glimpses, Vauxhall has finally taken the wraps off its Cascada four-seat convertible that is set to arrive in early 2013.

Based on the existing Astra and Insignia, with styling cues from both, it is expected to cost about £25,000, undercutting premium rivals.

It's yet another elegant offering from a brand at the top of its game under British design guru Mark Adams.



Budget power from BlueGT

VOLKSWAGEN claims it has the answer for customers wanting petrol performance and diesel miserliness – the Polo BlueGT (from £17,400).

The new car uses cylinder deactivation in its turbocharged 1.4-litre petrol engine. It can do 0-62mph in 7.9 seconds, but two cylinders can shut down automatically under lighter loadings, allowing 61.4mpg on the combined cycle and CO2 emissions of just 107g/km.



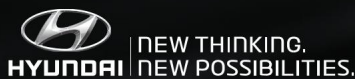
Yeti is number one for Which?

CONSUMER watchdog Which? says the Skoda Yeti is the most reliable car in the UK.

In a survey completed by owners of 47,000 vehicles, the petrol-powered model ranked number one in the SUV/4x4 classes with a 98 per cent reliability score.

As the highest total of any class winner, it was also declared overall champion.

The Yeti diesel model came in at sixth place.



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MOTORING

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Chevy's Cruze is now fully up to speed

By Steve Loader

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AMERICAN car giant General Motors treads a fine line in marketing the recently-arrived Chevrolet value brand alongside its long-established Vauxhall sister.

There have been awkward moments, such as Chevy's Captiva looking too much of a bargain against the closely-related Vauxhall Antara.

But Chevy also took a hit in 2009, when it launched its mid-range Cruze model as a saloon; the UK market is a graveyard for small saloons, but it probably helped ensure the then-new-generation Vauxhall Astra hatchback didn't get a hard time from a cheaper Cruze equivalent.

That situation has been rectified, though, with a Cruze hatchback arriving last year, now complemented by the new Cruze Station Wagon, priced from £15,375. Despite its racy looks, this is a practical load-lugger offering 500 litres of boot space or 1,478 litres with rear seats flat to the floor – some of the best stats in its class.

Typically from Chevy, the new wagon also comes laden with kit and the marque's standard five-year/100,000-mile warranty.

Three trim levels are offered – LS, LT and LTZ Nav – with standard equipment including air-con, electrically-heated and adjustable door mirrors, front electric windows with 'express down' facility, roof rails, rear and boot 12v power sockets, cargo-restraint



hooks, remote central door-locking and electronic boot release. You will need to trade up to LT (from £16,475) to get alloy wheels, though.

Engine choice is from two petrols – 1.6 and 1.8-litre – and a 1.7-litre diesel.

Chevrolet has also confirmed its new Trax compact SUV will be arriving soon. It was the brand's biggest news at the recent Paris Motor Show and upholds a proud history of Chevrolet SUVs – Chevy claims to have invented the type more than 75 years ago with the Suburban Carryall.

But the chunky Trax is a thoroughly modern take and will be offered with a choice of turbo-charged 1.4-litre petrol, normally-aspirated 1.6-litre petrol and 1.7-litre turbodiesel – 4x4 will be available on the two turbo units. Chevy says the car will be both practical and good to drive, and we can expect aggressive pricing.

■ DOVER-based Chevrolet dealer Perrys is offering free 12-month membership to the exclusive Tastecard dining club for customers who take a test drive before Monday, December 31.

Tastecard is the UK's largest diners' club, offering members 50 per cent off their total food bill or 2-for-1 offers at more than 5,500 UK restaurants. But Chevrolet's autumn menu also includes zero per cent finance over five years across the whole range until the end of the year.

This means the Spark 1.2 LT five-door city car, for example, is available for 60 monthly payments of just £149 with a £1,755 deposit.



ROLLING ON: Chevrolet's new Cruze Station Wagon will soon be joined an all-new SUV the Trax, left

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11 61 AGILA SE 1.2 5dr, Steel Silver	£10,495
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Commercial Vehicles

By Steve Loader

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

DEMAND for new vans has been on a roller-coaster ride lately.

These humble vehicles might be less visible and carry less than HGVs, but they oil the wheels of the economy by supplying local deliveries, servicing important sectors like construction and mobilising tradesmen.

Hardly surprising, then, that when the recession hit UK PLC, this vehicle sector drove off a cliff, plummeting 60 per cent in 2009 against 2008. But there were grounds for optimism when we turned the spotlight on this vehicle sector in January this year; registrations for new vans in 2011 had bounced back to almost 17 per cent up against the previous year.

Could it be that vans were signalling a turnaround for the UK? Sadly not, as the sector has reflected this year's faltering economy, including the double-dip phase we had all dreaded.

But signs of another market rally are here, with new van registrations down just 2.6 per cent over the past 12 months, while the new '62 registration plate month of September showed a 1.1 improvement against the same month in 2011, with major growth for pick-ups (+17.2 per cent) and vans in the up-to-two-tonne payload category (+8.8 per cent).

It was enough for a cautious note from the motor industry mouthpiece, the SMMT, chief executive Paul Everitt saying: "The September-plate change provided enough of a boost to stabi-



ON THE MOVE:

The Relay is Citroën's versatile flagship load-lugger, far left. It is popular for low running costs, while Mercedes has driven down operating costs through models like the Sprinter

Vans on the roller-coaster

lise van demand in a challenging economic environment."

Anecdotal evidence suggests a recovery is long overdue anyway, with signs of pent-up demand even before this year's renewed crisis of confidence.

Despite the growing durability and comfort levels of modern vans, operators large and small have been pushing their vehicle replacement programmes far beyond normal limits in the face of the economic downturn, only to find that

ageing vehicles start to look tatty – with public-image consequences – and incur more unprofitable downtime for maintenance.

Van powertrain technology is beginning to echo that of the car sector, so there are real commercial and public-relations benefits, too, from running a leaner and meaner fleet with better fuel consumption and lower emissions.

For Kent firms operating into London, there is also an opportunity to save on the capital's congestion charge by buying small eco vans

with CO₂ emissions that are below 100g/km.

Smaller operators are also playing a part in the recovering because they are being forced to buy new vehicles due to a scarcity of decent used stock, caused by the big boys hanging on to their fleets for longer and running up galactic mileages that make them less desirable secondhand.

Indeed, various industry sources suggest the van market faces a 'black hole' in supply in the years ahead due to new van registrations tumbling during the recession.

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COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

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Make way for White Van Ma'am



HIGH ROLLERS: Three leading market contenders: Citroën's high-cube big-selling Berlingo; Peugeot's multiple-award-winning compact/city van the Bipper; and Vauxhall's mid-size panel van the Vivaro

By Steve Loader

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

WHITE Van Man has a mate – White Van Ma'am.

According to a new survey, our perception of the person behind the wheel of the white van speeding by in the outside lane of the motorway needs to change.

That person is no longer someone with discarded drinks bottles and a copy of The Sun – open at page three – stuffed behind the wind-

screen and carrying a bull terrier as his navigator but an altogether more discerning individual – and quite possibly a woman.

Astonishingly, the survey from AXA Business Insurance also showed that he or she is likely to be an opera-lover (43 per cent) and more than 60 per cent had not been booked for a traffic offence in the past 10 years despite more than half spending at least 10 hours a week behind the wheel.

AXA Business Insurance managing director

Darrell Sansom said: "Commercial-van-drivers have been given a pretty bad reputation over the past decade, but the stereotypes around them couldn't be further from the reality.

"What we're finding is that as more and more women are driving vans, coupled with a higher degree of professionalism among the van-driving community, the stereotypical perception of a 'white van man' is becoming a thing of the past."

It seemed clear from the poll that most van-drivers objected to the white-van-man stereo-

type – well under half (39 per cent) reckoned it was accurate, but only 8 per cent owned up to being that man.

In any case, a third of the drivers surveyed were women, which might or might not explain why cooking and gardening were high on the list of hobbies, although it seems there are some pastimes that go with the job – 82 per cent of those interviewed regularly went to a football match or watched one live on TV... hopefully not while driving.

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Innovation drives sector forwards

By Steve Loader

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FOR years vans were seen as indistinct and anonymous boxes, but the sector has been revolutionised by new designs, technology, trends and roles.

And operators have seen economy, efficiency and flexibility soar, while drivers have enjoyed better performance, refinement and safety.

Many of the latter benefits have come about because of crossover designs from cars, bringing creature comforts like air-con and a decent sound system, plus top-notch safety.

Load capacities have also widened, from as little as three cubic metres for a car-derived courier van or company runabout, up to a 17-cubic metre delivery van, while pick-ups and small side-loading/tipper bodies have become popular in construction and farming.

Access has improved, too. Many larger vans have low floors in the driving compartment for easy access and most vans come with at least one sliding door as standard to aid loading – many buyers take the option of a second 'slider'. There is now a choice usually of side-opening twin doors or a high-lift tailgate as well.

Petrol-driven vans have all but been displaced by the better economy, range and low-down pulling power of four- and five-cylinder diesels, which also offer extended service periods, lower maintenance costs and longer-lasting parts.



BIG DEAL: Vauxhall has just launched the capacious new Combo to cope with high-bulk deliveries



LIFT-OFF: Toyota's Dyna appeals to those needing dropside/tipping capability on a more compact chassis



FREE UP: Economy of vans like the Mercedes-Benz Vito has underpinned the e-commerce revolution

Fuel-saving and efficient-cruising six-speed manual gearboxes are also the norm, although urban operators are turning increasingly to automatic, semi-automatic or clutchless transmissions. These can usually be driven with manual selection anyway but are ideal for the stop-start traffic conditions of the town and city and can be as economical as a manual.

The latter is also particularly suited to one of the new roles for vans: servicing the booming e-commerce/internet-based businesses.

These often require small cargo volumes but lots of stops and even greater choice of van and loading flexibility.

Whether it is a book or large item of office equipment, private and commercial customers often expect the goods to be there within 24 hours.

The size of households is also decreasing, while the number of single-occupant households is increasing.

This has an effect on day-to-day requirements – people shop in smaller quantities and need smaller packs. By 2015, the daily volume of parcels is expected to have doubled to about 14 million across the UK and Europe compared with 1996.

The downside is increasing fuel prices and emissions, plus access restrictions to cities and towns, so many van operators are already upgrading to greener vehicles that will also save on operating costs and boost their image and PR.

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Step forward 'Pick-up Truck Man'

By **Steve Loader**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

YOU'VE heard of 'White Van Man', but is there now another road-going species – 'Pick-up Truck Man'?

Pick-ups – also known as 'utes' (utility trucks) and 'bakkies' in other parts of the world – have rocketed in number in the UK lately, both as commercial and leisure vehicles.

Sales are also illuminating an otherwise gloomy small-commercial-vehicles market, with a hefty 17 per cent leap during the new '62 registration month of September against the same month in 2011.

The unanswered question, though, is whether this popularity is due to tax anomalies that make the pick-up attractive to private users or whether commercial operators see them as relatively cheap yet capacious recession busters, available with two- or four-door cabs and, in the case of 4x4 models, able to go most places on a farm or construction site.

Could it be also that traditional off-roaders lack the carrying capacity and have become too gentrified and expensive? Or do the interlopers cater for an inner desire to wear a check shirt, jeans and cowboy boots?

There is certainly an air of Americana about contenders like the new Isuzu D-Max, Mitsubishi L200 – the model that caused the UK pick-up market to take off – and the legendary Toyota Hilux, the vehicle that Top Gear failed to kill off with fire, water and violence.

And there is no need to rough it, either; deal-

ers find most buyers want 'up-spec' double-cab versions that can take the family at weekends, complete with camping gear, bikes and so on, all safe from the weather beneath a removable hardtop cover for the rear loading bay.

Isuzu, for instance, has just launched a £900 'Vision' upgrade for audio, navigation and communications on the D-Max – the kind of pack usually found on executive saloons.

However, not every pick-up-buyer wants all the bells and whistles, which is why Fiat launched a cost-effective version of its award-winning Doblò Cargo van. The Doblò Work Up is a 'drop-side' vehicle with compact external dimensions for easy use in urban areas, though Fiat says it appeals to the agriculture, construction, maintenance or city-parks-services sectors, too.

But this isn't really the vehicle for would-be Marlboro Man private buyers and we asked Sittingbourne accountant Ray Backler, of small-business specialist Capsa Accounting, about the tax appeal of buying a 'rough-tough' pick-up.

"Company car tax is onerous, but the tax regime for vans recognises most people need these for business, so the burden is more modest," he said.

"Many in business do not realise pick-up trucks, including the family-friendly double-cab variety, are classified as vans for tax purposes rather than cars. The van is taxed based on a flat-rate charge of £3,000, and if any fuel is provided this is subject to a further flat-rate charge of £500, making £3,500 in total that is taxable.

"Of this, a standard-rate taxpayer will then only actually pay £700 in tax – a huge saving compared with virtually any company car."



BEGINNINGS: The Mitsubishi's high-spec L200 customised version kick-started UK pick-up demand



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